



Ralphie V runs before the 28-14 Rocky Mountain Showdown win over Colorado State.
Photo Courtesy: Associated Press



Brooks: Odds, Ends, Outtakes And Timely Trivia

Release: 09/23/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER – Sifting through the notebook (and digital recorder) before lifting off for points east – The Buckeye Nation and a Saturday afternoon in “The Shoe” . . .

HANDLER GETS HANDLE ON FOOTBALL: Baseball was close to being Gus Handler’s first love, but he was savvy enough to know that football wouldn’t jilt him. A significant growth spurt in high school had something to do with it, too.

Handler was a better than average outfielder and infielder (third and first base) at Barrington (Ill.) High School. A four-year baseball letterman and all-area honoree, his odyssey in that sport opened as a 5-10, 180-pound freshman and ended as a 6-2, 265-pound senior.

He’ll be almost 30 pounds heavier than that Saturday when he opens at center for Colorado at Ohio State (1:30 p.m. MDT, ESPN2/ABC). It will be Handler’s first career start; he’s been sharing snaps in the Buffaloes’ first three games with redshirt freshman Daniel Munyer.

BUFFALO EXTRAS



Watch:
Buffalo Stampede
09/22/2011



Watch:
Bricks Are Back
09/23/2011

- ➔ **Gameday**
- ➔ **Buy Tickets**

But Saturday finds Handler on his own; Munyer suffered a sprained ankle in last week's win against Colorado State.

"I'm excited...it's a good opportunity," said Handler, a sophomore. "Growing up in Midwest, seeing all those Big Ten teams...it'll be fun to play a game close to home."

Those Midwestern roots – and this week's thorough tape study of the Buckeyes – have given Handler more than a small clue of what to expect: "They're big, fast and aggressive. Every game you've got into it thinking it's going to be a 9-on-7 physical game – just like coach (Jon) Embree has told us to expect. We just have to match their intensity.

"Every year they put out a good team, that's the Ohio State tradition. They're top notch."

Embree called Handler and Munyer "both outstanding players" and said one could be ticketed for a future position switch: "We have to find a way to play them both – whether one goes to guard or whatever. But I think they're really good football players."

After growing out of baseball and into a tackle in high school, Handler has been a center for only three years.

He believes he's well-versed in CU's playbook but admits, "I'm trying to get a better feel for the position, just get better every day at snapping and stepping, making the calls I have to make."

Line coach Steve Marshall describes him as "very intelligent," adding, "I'd like him to be more powerful, but Gus has been consistent. He needs to continue to work on his technique and running the offense."

EMBREE LIKES THESE ODDS: Expected to open with Handler in the O-line are seniors Ryan Miller (right) and Ethan Adkins (left) at guard, and senior Sione Tau (right) and sophomore David Bakhtiari (left) at tackle.

Bakhtiari has missed the last two games with a knee sprain, but returned to practice this week. Junior Ryan Dannewitz, who can play either tackle, also has been recuperating from a knee sprain, but is expected to be available.

Embree joked this week that the "over/under" is for Bakhtiari to play 85 snaps. "I'm counting on him being able to do that. The thing that helps him with that is good weather – the heat. If it was a cold day and he was coming in and out, it would stiffen up on him."

Saturday's weather forecast in Columbus calls for temperatures in the mid-60s and a 60 percent chance of thunderstorms.

TWO QBs, ONE SOLUTION: An old football adage goes like this: If you've got two quarterbacks, you don't have one. True or not, that's the situation for the Buckeyes.

With Terrell Pryor bolting for the NFL after the school's off-season scandal, Ohio State is filling the position with senior Joe Bauserman and freshman Braxton Miller. Bauserman is considered a pocket passer, having completed half of his 60 passing attempts for 365 yards and four touchdowns. He's rushed 11 times for 36 yards and a score. Miller, meanwhile, has completed 10-of-16 passes for 152 yards and a TD, with one interception. He's run for 62 yards on 13 carries.

Embree contends the dilemma of preparing for two QBs "really isn't, because when you get a running quarterback that's a good passer you have to do that anyway...it's something we're going to have to do, especially in this league when you get the mobile quarterbacks. You kind of have to have two plans – one when they're in shotgun and one when they're under center. It doesn't add that much more added stress."

Defensive coordinator Greg Brown said his unit will be ready for both, but added, "We're spending a great deal of our time getting ready for (Miller) and for them to come out and try to run the ball right down our throats. That's our point of emphasis."

Good plan, especially the part about preparing for Miller. Buckeyes coach Luke Fickell announced Thursday that Miller will make his first career start against the Buffs.

LOVE AT FIRST TOUCH: The 28-14 victory over CSU marked the first time a CU running back other than senior Rodney "Speedy" Stewart got a carry. That distinction went to tailback Tony Jones, a 5-7, 175-pound redshirt freshman.

Running backs coach Eric Bieniemy said Jones "did a great job of stepping up in huge moments, clutch moments. He made some huge runs."

Jones gained 23 yards on his six carries, with a long run of eight yards. By contrast, Stewart carried 19 times for 98 yards against the Rams and has been called on 61 times in three games (223 yards gained). Bieniemy says he must "continue doing a better job of managing my position" – meaning giving Stewart more relief.

That could mean more weekly carries for Jones. The CSU game, said Bieniemy, "should help build (Jones') confidence, and we need him to play at a high level."

Jones plans on doing that, but said there have been no promises made about an increased number of carries – and he doesn't expect any promises from Bieniemy.

"He's never said that to me, and he doesn't have to," Jones said. "I want to keep working hard in practice and do whatever I have to do to get more reps. He doesn't necessarily have to tell me that I'll get more. I'm not going to slow down or stop practicing hard just because I'm getting some reps. I'm going to keep going at it."

Jones, from Paterson, N.J., traveled to Ohio his high school (Don Bosco Prep), but the game was in Cincinnati. "I'm looking forward to playing in Columbus," he said. "I've heard great things about Ohio Stadium."

FOLLOWING THE SCRIPT: Different coaches have different ideas. One of the biggest differences in the old and new CU regimes is their offensive approach to opening a game. The old way: one scripted play to start. The new way: 15 scripted plays to start.

Bieniemy, the offensive coordinator, said his scripting the first 15 plays "is the only way I know." It was done when he was a player at CU and in the NFL, when he was an assistant coach at CU and UCLA, and when he was an assistant with the Minnesota Vikings. "Since I've been a player and in the coaching profession, that's just the way it's been done."

Players, he noted, "have seemed to (take to it), but they've never asked. First of all, they know exactly what they're doing. We talk about each and every front we'll possibly, each and every scenario. We want our kids to be prepared. Part of it is being professional, but on top of that we're trying to give the kids the best opportunity to be successful."

Senior quarterback Tyler Hansen said in seasons past, "We knew what we'd call with the first play of the game. But we never scripted the first 15...it's something I like doing; it kind of gets your mindset going early and guys are going to be ready for those first 15 and know what they have to do."

Hansen said he and "a couple" of other players have veto power: "We get to have input but they (coaches) take it with a grain of salt. They're going to call what they want to call. You get in certain situations where you have to change things – third and long and obviously you've got to switch up the play. But they've been pretty consistent with what they've called and scripted out."

Regardless of the script and whoever has in-game input, all the Buffs acknowledge the need to start faster. They've been outscored 40-20 in this season's first halves, and Hansen notes, "We just have to play better and get a mindset going early. We have to create some energy early, someone's got to step up – I have to step up – and make a play early to kind of get our offense going early."

The Buckeyes have been a hot-and-cold first-half team, getting outscored 29-14 in their first quarters this season, but rallying for a 34-3 second-quarter advantage. That's a 48-32 halftime edge in three games.

PLAYING SMART, PASSING ON DUMB THROWS: Hansen, who is third in the Pac-12 in passing (304 yards a game) and total offense (309.7), says his comfort level increases weekly.

“Coach (Rip) Scherer has done a great job of talking me through what I need to do, what my progressions are on every play,” Hansen said. “With that, my biggest goal is taking care of the ball. I’ve done a good job of that so far and need to keep it up.”

He’s thrown only one interception in 111 pass attempts, completing 61 for 912 yards and seven TDs. He called ditching the ball when an open receiver can’t be found “the toughest thing for a quarterback . . . you want to be perfect, score a touchdown on every play.

“That’s just not going to happen. Sometimes it’s OK to throw the ball away. Coach Scherer says sometimes the best play is an incompletion or a throw-away; sometimes it’s the only play. You have to be aware of that and you’ve got to accept it.”

BUFF BITS: CU’s leading tackler is sophomore cornerback/nickel back Parker Orms, who is averaging 9.3 a game with a team-best five third-down stops. His coach, Greg Brown, isn’t surprised: “He just shows up all the time. That’s just his nature; he’s going to be around the ball and make plays. He’s always been like that, always will be.” ...Brown says his secondary, which likely will be minus starting senior corner Travis Sandersfeld for another couple of weeks, has held up well, but adds, “It’s been three games and three games only. It doesn’t mean anything...we’ll see where we are at the end of the year.” CU is third in the Pac-12 in pass defense (208.0 yards a game), but has allowed six TD passes – second-highest in the league ...In team and position meetings this week, the Buffs have been shown snippets of Miami’s 24-6 win last weekend over Ohio State, with some of the focus being on the Hurricanes’ reaction to their own big plays. “Their players were going crazy celebrating, hitting each other on the head, just going nuts,” Hansen said. “That’s what we’ve got to do. We’ve got to create that energy and be passionate about what we’re doing.” ...CU punter Darragh O’Neill had one of his punts tipped by CSU last weekend. Embree blamed it on O’Neill being “too close to the shield” and the punt coming off of O’Neill’s foot low. “A bad combination for us,” Embree said. Overall, though, O’Neill has been stellar in his first season of punting; his 45.9 average places him second in the Pac-12. Consider: his 15 punts are the most in the league, his six punts inside the 20 are a league high and his six punts of 50 or more yards are second-highest...Given the relatively short drive (six hours) from Albuquerque, Tyler McCulloch’s parents have seen both of the Buffs’ games played in state. They also traveled to Hawai’i for the opener – and a travel snafu on that trip will allow them to go to Columbus for Saturday’s game. “Their flight from Hawaii got messed up, so the airline gave them a couple of free tickets,” said McCulloch, a freshman receiver. The biggest crowd he’s played before was last weekend in Denver (57,186); Ohio Stadium’s crowd is expected to be just under twice that...Add CU offensive graduate assistant Matt Thurin to the list of Ohioans returning home and in need of tickets to accommodate family and friends. Thurin, in his first season with the football program, is from Canton but attended high school in Louisville, Ohio. But that hasn’t diminished the ticket requests.

Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU

SHOW MENU



CU Buffs look to buck trend at Ohio State

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

Posted:09/23/2011 05:39:24 PM MDT

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- College football coaches often are reluctant to share their true expectations for what the week's game on Saturday afternoon will look like.

Colorado coach Jon Embree couldn't have been more clear about what it will take for his team to beat the Ohio State Buckeyes today in Ohio Stadium and end an 18-game road losing streak. Embree likened the matchup to 103,000 people showing up to watch 9-on-7 run drills.

It will be two programs with an appreciation for physical play clashing in a stadium also known as "The Horseshoe," one of the most historic venues in college football. With a 60 percent chance of rain, it could be a slugfest in the slop, which will make ball security the highest priority.

"It's going to be tough," senior defensive tackle Conrad Obi said. "I know they plan to hit us in the mouth and we plan to hit them in the mouth. It's going to be a tough game. Better get your mind right."

Embree, who lost by three points here as a senior at CU in 1986, said his team must match the physical play of the Buckeyes, particularly along the offensive and defensive lines and get off to a good start for a change. The Buffs have fallen behind in the first half of each of their first three games.

He drove the message home for players throughout the week with several intense, physical practices aimed at preparing them for an OSU offensive line featuring five 300-pounders all standing at least 6-foot-5. Plus a defensive line that is a big reason why the Buckeyes are allowing only 15 points per game.

Ohio State has lost only five home games since the start of the 2002 season, but the Buffs aren't facing a Buckeyes team at full strength. Five key members are serving suspensions for NCAA violations that came to light in the offseason and ultimately cost former coach Jim Tressel his job.

The Buckeyes are coming off a loss at Miami last week that knocked them out of the national polls for the first time in seven years.

"There is not a lot of weaknesses with that team and that program," Embree said. "I know people are down on them around their program, but to me I think it's more of they've been so successful and they've done so well. All of a sudden they lose a game and it's supposed to change. I don't see it."

Offensively it should help that the Buffs expect to have their best offensive lineman back with starting left tackle David Bakhtiari returning from a sprained knee suffered just seven plays into the season opener at Hawaii. He hasn't played since and offensive line coach Steve Marshall has had to do plenty of patchwork with several other linemen also missing time with injuries.

"I know David wants to get in there and go," Marshall said. "He's chomping at the bit and driving me nuts, but I won't put him in there until I'm dang sure he's ready to go."

It is a homecoming for three Buffs who were recruited to CU from Ohio high schools, including running back Rodney Stewart, who grew up in a suburb north of Columbus. Stewart has been in the stadium before but never for a game. He and starting middle linebacker Doug Rippy and nickle back Ayodeji Olatoye will be trying to prove the Buckeyes shouldn't have let them get away.

Stewart needs just 33 rushing yards today to become only the fourth CU player in history to rush for 3,000 yards in his career. A 100-yard game would vault him into second place on the career-rushing list behind his position coach, offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy.

A winning formula today for CU requires the Buffs to stand strong in the trenches and pave the way for Stewart while

making few mental mistakes and forcing true freshman quarterback Braxton Miller into bad decisions and turnovers in his first college start.

Miller, a dual-threat to run and throw, has already logged plenty of playing time in the first three games of the season. He has completed 10-of-16 passes for 152 yards with one touchdown and one interception. He also has run 13 times for 62 yards.

The Buffs had mixed results in their first two encounters with dual-threat quarterbacks this season. Hawaii's Bryant Moniz burned them badly on the ground in the season opener while they managed to hold Cal's Zach Maynard relatively in check in an overtime loss.

Miller has spelled Joe Bauserman at times this season, and it appears the roles will be reversed today. The Buffs can count on seeing both Buckeyes under center. CU hopes that leads to more confusion and inefficiency for OSU. The two combined to complete just four passes last week in a loss at Miami.

"I can't pinpoint one single thing other than we got to get better all across the board," OSU first-year coach Luke Fickell said.

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

THORBURN: Stars might be aligning for a CU upset

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:09/23/2011 06:19:13 PM MDT

Jon Embree has watched all of the Ohio State tape from this season.

Jim Tressel does not appear in the footage. Neither does Terrelle Pryor.

Important members of the Buckeye family -- including star running back Daniel Herron, starting wide receiver DeVier Posey, and All-Big Ten offensive tackle Mike Adams -- also are out of the picture.

Ohio State, coming off a 24-6 loss at Miami, has fallen out of the rankings for the first time in over seven years.

Interim head coach Luke Fickell is turning to a freshman quarterback, Braxton Miller, to bail water out of the sinking ship.

It appears that Colorado's timing for its first visit to The Horseshoe in a quarter century couldn't be better.

Right coach?

"I'm not buying that the sky is falling in Columbus," Embree said.

Tressel lied to his bosses about his knowledge of the memorabilia-for-tattoos scandal and resigned over the summer as NCAA investigators invaded Columbus.

Pryor, who Tressel allowed to play in the Sugar Bowl win over Arkansas after he promised to return to school for his senior season, decided not to serve a five-game suspension at Ohio State after all. The quarterback is currently serving a five-game suspension in the NFL as a member of the Oakland Raiders.

The Buckeyes are hoping to tread water until getting the rest of the suspended players back for a road trip to Nebraska in two weeks.

"People are down on them around their program," Embree said. "They've been so successful and they've done so well, all of a sudden they lose a game and it's supposed to change? I don't see it."

It's true that the Buckeyes are still loaded with blue-chip recruits. Embree could probably do some serious damage in the Pac-12 South Division with Fickell's roster.

However, thanks to the offseason chaos in Columbus, it suddenly appears the Buffs have the edge at quarterback, wide receiver and running back on this given Saturday.

Tyler Hansen has connected with Paul Richardson on 18 passes for 360 yards and four touchdowns, and last week CU's running game started to find its legs as Rodney Stewart rushed for 97 net yards against Colorado State.

The Buffs, especially on offense, have shown improvement every week.

"We are getting closer to the balance. That last drive we had of 10-plus minutes (against CSU) was a testament to that," Embree said. "We're starting to get in a groove running the football. We still have a ways to go, but it was a step forward in the right direction."

Stewart, a Columbus native, will be eager to prove he belongs on the same field with the Buckeyes.

"I didn't really feel like anything," Stewart said when asked about getting ignored by Ohio State during the recruiting process. "I knew I had talent and could play somewhere. Now I'm playing here (at CU)."

Defensively, the Buffs are also led by a Columbus export: middle linebacker Doug Rippy.

CU has played some experienced quarterbacks this season, Hawaii's Bryant Moniz and Cal's Zach Maynard, with mixed results. Miller might be Ohio State's savior some day; it's defensive coordinator Greg Brown's job to make sure it's not Saturday.

"Their quarterback is very athletic and he's capable of doing the same thing that the Hawaii quarterback did," Rippy said. Moniz scored three rushing touchdowns to deliver CU a 34-17 defeat at Aloha Stadium. "We just have to go out there and do our jobs and not over-think and over-pursue."

The Buffs, who will play their first official Pac-12 game in one week, have a style and attitude instilled in them by the new coaching staff that could serve them well in Big Ten country.

"It's going to be a physical game," Embree predicts. "It's going to be, I hate to date myself here, an old Big Eight-type game."

Forty years ago, Colorado finished third in the Big Eight -- and No. 3 in the final Associated Press poll -- behind No. 1 Nebraska and No. 2 Oklahoma. That season the Buffs beat Ohio State 20-14 in Columbus.

The stakes, at least nationally, aren't as high in the 2011 meeting. Still, this would be a signature win for Embree early in his career.

And what better place to end an 18-game road losing streak than in front of 102,000 Ohio State fans?

That would be a game tape worth keeping.

Close Window

Send To Printer

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

Opinionated Gordon Gee ready to face his old CU friends

By Natalie Meisler
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/24/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

He's one the most outspoken university presidents in the nation, and that's just concerning his thoughts on athletics. He has mockingly offended everyone from Nebraska football fans to a religious order devoted to feeding the elderly poor.

Ohio State University president Gordon Gee once earned fame simply for decorating his pants and signature bow tie with Colorado Buffalo logos. Today, he will visit with many old Colorado friends from president Bruce Benson to coach Jon Embree, a football player at CU when Gee ran the university.

Rather than get more mileage out of another wisecrack, Gee is more concerned about the state of the shifting conference maps these days, with schools breaking up long-standing rivalries.

He likes the Big Ten's mid-America stability but is not fond of all the shuffling going on in other leagues.

"It seems to me the natural relationships, the natural sense of rivalries, a lot of this stuff is being disrupted, and I'm not sure why," Gee said in a telephone interview.

This year, Gee is more subtly taking on his presidential peers for allowing massive changes on the collegiate landscape.

"I'm a little concerned about the fact we're scrambling and I'm not quite sure what we're scrambling for. ...What all the configurations mean is it's a jump ball right now. No one quite knows where people are going to land."

That said, he fully admits helping recruit his old Colorado adversary, Nebraska, into the Big Ten a year ago, though he's not above cracking wise about the Huskers.

"I got all sorts of great Nebraska jokes," he said. "As I tell everyone around Ohio, I discovered two things about Nebraska jokes. (Nebraskans) love their football and they have no sense of humor."

He's also turned some gaffes into positives, befriending the religious order and even getting a hug from the Little Sisters of the Poor administrator.

He also admits: "I'm probably one of most quotable guys in America. My mouth is sore from continually extracting my foot from it."

Gee served as CU's president from 1985-90, leaving just before the national championship

Send flowers
for any occasion

Bouquets
from \$19⁹⁹_{+s/h}

ProFlowers[®]
Offer ONLY available at:
proflowers.com/happy
or call 1.877.804.1133



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

season. When his football coach, Bill McCartney, complained about inadequate facilities, Gee helped broker the deal for the Dal Ward Center construction. In exchange for the donation from the Coors Foundation, the beer name was placed on the existing basketball arena.

He was always rooting for CU — until now. Ohio State doesn't like to lose one football game, let alone two in a row.

Natalie Meisler: 303-954-1295 or
nmeisler@denverpost.com

More TV. Less Money.

**NO EQUIPMENT TO BUY!
NO START-UP COSTS!**

Call now 1-888-478-3360

All offers require 2 year agreement. Offers end 12/31/11 and are based on approved credit, credit card required. New customers only (lease required, must maintain programming, DVR and/or HD Access). Prices higher and terms & conditions vary in select markets. \$19.95 Handling & Delivery fee may apply. Call for details. ©2011 DIRECTV and the Cyclone Design logo are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

cu football

Trip to Ohio State just latest part of Bufs' killer schedule

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/24/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Colorado football coach Jon Embree had just reached the podium when, during his first Pac-12 news conference two months ago in Los Angeles, he was asked about the Buffaloes' demanding 2011 schedule.

Jon, after you signed on the dotted line, what did you tell athletic director Mike Bohn about the schedule you were handed?

Embree smiled. He reminded the reporter that he had coached in the NFL for four years.

"Our players should be excited about it," Embree said. "I just told Mike Bohn I was glad he didn't put the Packers on there."

Colorado (1-2) completes its nonconference schedule today (1:30 p.m., KMGH-7) against traditional powerhouse Ohio State (2-1) in Columbus.

The Buckeyes struggled

last weekend in a 24-6 loss at Miami, but coming into Ohio Stadium usually presents a monumental challenge. Ohio State has won 56 consecutive regular-season nonconference games against teams not ranked in The

Associated Press Top 25.

A crowd of more than 102,000 is expected. And unlike some bowl-shaped stadiums, the venerable "Horseshoe" holds the crowd noise.

"This is the reason why you play college football, a reason why I wanted to play at CU," Buffs senior quarterback Tyler Hansen said. "It's going to be a great atmosphere, playing on national television, playing in a big stadium like that. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Bookmakers made Colorado about a 15-point underdog, but there appears no better time to play the Buckeyes, who have been sluggish on offense, with suspensions of its top players at running back (Dan Herron), wide receiver (DeVier Posey) and on the offensive line (Mike Adams). In addition, freshman quarterback Braxton Miller will make his first start.

"At Colorado, we've always played tough schedules," said Embree, a tight end for the Buffs in the 1980s under Bill McCartney and later an assistant coach at his alma mater for a decade. "My philosophy is to play who's in front of you."

Colorado has sought to schedule games against two marquee nonconference opponents, preferably at least one of those at home. It

Send flowers
for any occasion
Bouquets
from \$19⁹⁹_{+s/h}

ProFlowers[®]
Offer ONLY available at:
proflowers.com/happy
or call 1.877.804.1133



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

happened this year because California was previously scheduled as a nonconference opponent before CU joined the league, and then Ohio State was added.

The contract for today's game in Columbus was signed 12 months ago. Colorado had an opening because the NCAA allows teams that play in Hawaii to schedule an extra 13th game to help defray expenses incurred during the trip to the islands. Colorado is guaranteed at least a \$1.4 million payday today.

Bohn said Colorado's scheduling philosophy will change now that the Buffs are in the Pac-12 and will play a nine-game conference schedule rather than the eight-game slate of past years.

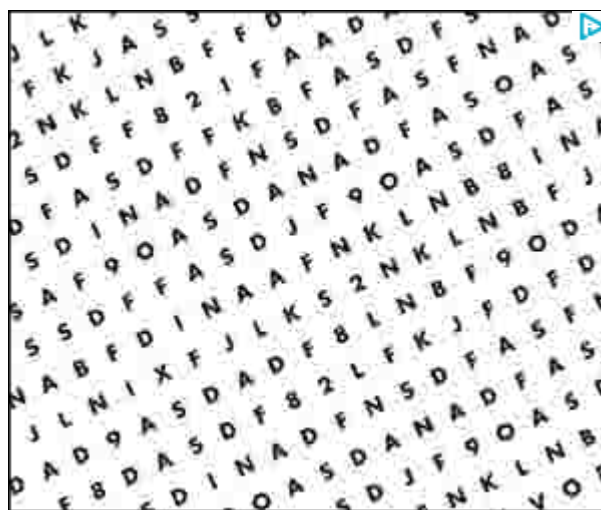
Bohn acknowledged that the 2011 schedule Embree inherited may not be ideal for a first-year coach trying to rebuild a program.

"All the pieces, independently of playing Hawaii, Cal and Ohio State this year, in addition to Colorado State, that made a lot of sense," Bohn said. "But when all those games are forced into one particular season, it puts a lot of strain on us."

In the future, look for Colorado to soften its nonconference schedule.

"We'll look for a marquee, cross-sectional game from time to time," Bohn said. "But we'll also try to provide some balance and hopefully try to instill some confidence early in our team and give this coaching staff an opportunity to build a program."

Tom Kensler: 303-954-1280 or
tkensler@denverpost.com



Clemons eager for return trip to Columbus

ARNIE STAPLETON, AP Sports Writer

Updated 01:17 p.m., Friday, September 23, 2011

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — University of Colorado senior wide receiver Toney Clemons expects to get plenty of attention at Ohio State on Saturday, and not just from the Buckeyes' defensive backs.

The packed house at the Horseshoe will surely jeer him all afternoon, he said.

Clemons played two years at Michigan before moving to Colorado in 2009.

After sitting out a year under NCAA transfer rules, he caught 43 passes for Colorado as a junior. He got off to a slow and rocky start this season but bounced out of coach Jon Embree's doghouse earlier this month and had a breakout game against Colorado State last week.

It included a 44-yard touchdown catch that gave the Buffs a two-touchdown lead over their rival and served notice that Paul Richardson wasn't the only deep threat in Colorado's offense.

Seconds after that 28-14 win, Clemons acknowledged he still harbors a hatred for the Buckeyes (2-1), who fell out of the AP Top 25 this week for the first time since 2004 following a 24-6 loss to Miami.

"It's Ohio State man, you see those colors and it angers you as a maize and blue guy, Michigan guy or Michigan anybody," Clemons said. "I honestly feel that way still. It won't leave. It's Ohio State, you're brought up to not like those guys. It doesn't matter where you are in the country that's just how you're going to feel about them."

Bloodlines don't matter in mud baths, either.

Clemons is a cousin of Buckeyes tailback Jordan Hall and also of former Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor, who quit the team last summer in the midst of a scandal that also brought down coach Jim Tressel.

As a sophomore, Clemons suited up for the Wolverines' game at Ohio State but didn't play in the 42-7 thumping by the Buckeyes.

"We took a beating by those guys. They were loaded. It was Pryor's freshman year. They walked over us, it was close the first quarter then they took over," Clemons said. "A lot of that goes with that stadium, it has a big influence on that team. Getting to go back to the Shoe is going to be fun."



I'm used to that type of crowd noise playing at 'The Big House', playing at Penn State and Wisconsin and even at Nebraska. You can't let that crowd rattle you because that's what they do and they do a great job of it at Ohio State."

Although he didn't do anything in that 2008 game at Columbus, Clemons is quite sure the red-clad fans will remember he's a Michigan man.

"Oh, yeah, they'll remember me. They players will remember me. The fans will know if you were a Michigan guy, they pay attention to that kind of stuff," Clemons said. "I expect to get heckled a lot and I'm ready for it."

Clemons, the first college football player to play in the Big Ten, Big 12 and Pac-12, figures he's ready to make his mark this time.

Since transferring to Colorado, the native of Pittsburgh and blue chip recruit has been viewed as something of an underachiever. Clemons caught three touchdown passes last year and sat down for a heart-to-heart talk with Embree after failing to catch a pass in Colorado's opener at Hawaii.

Now, he feels like he's back on track, and just in time.

"I can't wait to go back. It's closer to home for me and it's going to be like a homecoming for me, and I can't wait to go and compete against those type of players again," Clemons said. "Go back to the Big Ten and relive my old days."

Two other Buffaloes — linebacker **Doug Rippy** and tailback **Rodney Stewart** — are from Ohio and are just as pumped up for Saturday.

"It means a lot, just for the simple fact that I wasn't heavily recruited by Ohio State and now I'm here and I have the opportunity to play," Rippy said.

He said he grew up rooting for Penn State and never dreamed of playing for the Buckeyes.

"Ohio State, they're a good program and powerhouse in football, but at the same time, it was never a school I was really interested in," Rippy said.

Stewart, on the other hand, was very interested in Ohio State — but the Buckeyes were never interested in him.

"When you're young and the stadium is only 10 minutes away from your house, you're always thinking about playing there, playing with them or against them," Stewart said. "I'll finally get a chance."

Connect with AP Sports Writer **Arnie Melendrez Stapleton** at <http://twitter.com/arniestapleton>

Houston Texans Tickets
Just Buy Houston Texans Tickets,
Texans.JustBuyTickets.com

sports
Find A Car In Your Area. View New &
Used Local Listings
AutoTrader.com

10% Off LeatherCoatsEtc
Use coupon code "BING"
www.leathercoatsetc.com

CHRON.COM	City Brights	NEIGHBORHOODS	Kingwood	MARKETPLACE	LOCAL	SERVIC
Home	Traffic	Aldine	Lake	Jobs	SERVICES	Help/Cc
Houston &	TOPICS	Alief	Houston	Homes	Air	us
Texas	Small Business	Baytown	Magnolia	Cars	Conditioning	Busines
Nation &	MomHouston.com	Bellaire	Memorial	Coupons	Contractors	director
World	HoustonBelief.com	Clear Lake	Montrose	Classifieds	in Houston	Legal
Business	29-95.com	Conroe	Pasadena	Place a	Car	notices
Sports		Cy-Fair	Pearland	classified ad	Dealerships	Privacy
Entertainment		East End	Spring	Place a retail ad	in Houston	policy
Life		Fort Bend	Tomball	OTHER	Cleaning	Terms &
Corrections		Heights	West U	EDITIONS	Services in	Conditic
Blogs		Katy	The	Home Delivery	Houston	Employ
Weather			Woodlands	Mobile	Family	opportu
				RSS Feeds	Doctors in	Advertis
				e-Edition	Houston	with us
					Furniture	Buy a
					Stores in	banner
					Houston	
					Injury	
					Attorneys in	
					Houston	
					New Car	
					Dealer in	
					Houston	
					Real Estate	
					Agents in	
					Houston	
					Real Estate	
					Attorneys in	
					Houston	
					Restaurants	
					in Houston	

© 2011 Hearst Communications Inc.

HEARST newspapers

RSS

APARTMENTS | Buffs on Video | CLASSIFIEDS | Qrank on CUI | ADVERTISING | About | Contact Us | Get Involved!



NEWS | ENTERTAINMENT | LIFESTYLE | SPORTS | FEATURES | OPINION | COLUMNS

It's all physical... or is it all mental?

Written by Michael Krumholtz in Football, Sports on Sep 22, 2011 19:28 / comments

Rodney Stewart is returning to Columbus, only fifteen minutes from his home in Westerville, Ohio. Now the pressure spotlights the tailback taking stage in CU's run-centered offense.



(Courtesy of cubuffs.com)

"I did picture myself playing against them," Stewart said. "So I don't know how that's going to transfer on the field. I'll take a couple of deep breaths, get it out of my head, and focus on the game."

Saturday's game in Columbus marks a homecoming for key parts Stewart and Doug Rippy, as well as reserve corner Deji Olatoye. The Buckeyes overlooked all three as high school recruits. Now, Stewart says, the rest of his teammates return with an eye on getting the Ohioans a win.

"We all want to win for each other," Stewart said.

Rippy, the junior linebacker who is second among Buffs in tackles and sacks realizes the importance of coming home, and not just because he had to manage over 50

tickets for friends and family. His team has dropped 18 straight road games, with the last win coming in 2007. Rippy still played Ohio high school ball back then.

Ohio Stadium, known far along the Olentangy River as "The Horseshoe," possesses capacity for over 102,000, topping even football's sanctified Rose Bowl as the largest venue the Buffs will encounter in 2011.



* FF



EN

Enc

The
Bou
ever

"Obviously it's going to be an advantage for them," said Rippy. "But we have to end this losing road streak."

Its C
Hur
mor

A much-needed win against CSU reassures Jon Embree that his young team's potential is progressing into concrete results. His emphasized run game cracked a season-high 145 yards on the Rams.

"We are starting to get into a groove of running the football," Embree said. "We still have a ways to go, but again, it was another step forward in the right direction. That is the one thing that I am encouraged about of this team, is that each week we have improved."

Embree and offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy are also counting screen passes into their pro-style set. Halfback screens and receiver bubbles help to act in place of the run when CU's offensive line gets clogged.

Stewart nabbed a team-high seven catches last week and ranks tops with Richardson for most receptions on the season.

The former NFL coaches are sure to lean again on designed screens, allowing Stewart and the rest of the backs to launch from open space.

"To me, that is the most underused play in college football because unlike in the NFL, you can be down the field blocking," Embree said. "It is an extension of the run game to me. I think as long as you have that rule in college football, that you should be using it to your advantage."

Can CU run at will against a truck stop, nose bleeding Big Ten defense?

REL/

Finally
Embree
Bufs |
Embree
The B

Though CU is riding on a first-win high, the Buckeyes return home after a 24-6 loss at Miami (FL). The road-cursed Buffs could be wandering straight into an angry bully who's coming home after an even bigger bully beat on him.

ABO

Ohio State's pass offense is statistically muddled among the bottom of the FBS pond. But its 14th-ranked defense will provide for a rugby-type battle of grit.

"They are a physical, line up and run it down your throat team, which is something that we are aspiring to be," Embree said. "It will be, and I hate to date myself, an old school Big Eight football game."

Micha
Dayto
Indepe

In 1986, when these two programs last met, the Buffs were still a part of the Big Eight Conference and had a senior tight end by the name of Jon Embree. As he revisits Ohio Stadium's sidelines, he'll bypass the helmet for the headset, trying to script the signature victory for his rookie season.

He ha
Conne
drinks

Don't i

He knows they cannot start out slow nor can they afford frequent penalties. Both are subjects where his learning players continue to show problems after three games.

RECI

"Missed opportunities are magnified a little bit, especially when you go to a place like Columbus," Embree said. "When you are playing in the 'Shoe' (102,000) people are trying to will their team to victory. So when you miss an opportunity it can create a momentum shift, when you do a play on the road at a place like this, it is magnified."

A few familiar eyes glaring down upon the Buffs' hometown trio may stir butterflies in three stomachs. But a few thousand eyes screaming open at every inch of field will test a team.

For Embree's group, Saturday is all in the details. Or as they say in the Buckeye state, dot that "i".

Contact CU Independent Sports Editor Michael Krumholtz at Michael.krumholtz@colorado.edu



About Michael Krumholtz

Michael William Krumholtz Jr. was born in a suburb of Dayton, Ohio. This is his fifth year on the CU Independent sports staff. He has never gotten the chicken pox, became a Connect Four champion by the ripe age of 11, and drinks red wine straight from the bottle. Don't try to look him up on Facebook. It won't be him

Related posts:

1. Finally, a blowout
2. Embree's game of pride and passion
3. Buffs preach defense, mental toughness and leadership
4. Embree to be announced as new head coach
5. The Buffs topple the Rams at Mile High

Tags: buckeyes, CU Football, Jon Embree, Ohio, pac 12, Rodney Stewart

Share this article



Comments:

Like

Be the first of your friends to like this.

Buff's
CU Sc
Energy
Movie
New C

WHA

Album

buf
CU
inc
Bas

CU Ski

CU
Stu
Basl
Footl
New

SJMC

UCSU

Uni
Uni
stu
Col
nev

stude

col



RECI

Buff o

Bayle

Dexial

alumn

Colorado spotlight: WR Paul Richardson

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2011 11:20 AM

Comments: 0 | [Recommend](#) | 0 | [ShareThis](#)

It was bound to happen to Colorado receiver Paul Richardson after he caught 11 passes for 284 yards and two touchdowns in an overtime loss to California two weeks ago. Colorado State took note and tried hard to make him a nonfactor last week, though the Rams lost the game in the process.



The extra focus on Richardson opened other opportunities for Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen and the Buffaloes, particularly in the running game.

"He drew some attention, and that is one thing that we were able to do, some things in the run game by just lining him up differently," Colorado coach Jim Embree said of Richardson. "When he was getting the attention that he was getting, we could use him to block people by lining him up at certain positions and in certain formations.

"It also helped in the passing game because it allowed us to do some things with Speedy (tailback Rodney Stewart), again having (Richardson) on the other side, drawing a lot of attention."

It also put Colorado receiver Toney Clemons one-on-one with a defender for one of the Buffaloes' touchdowns.

How Ohio State will defend Richardson remains to be seen, but Embree said one thing the Buffaloes proved last week is that their offense is not a one-trick passing show to Richardson.

"That is the great thing about our offense; you don't have to force anything," Embree said. "Once we see what people are trying to do in order to take away certain things, you just have to make the appropriate adjustments and have other people ready to step up and make plays."

[Favorite](#)

[Print Story](#)

[Email](#)

Purchase any of these photos at the OSU Photo Store





Bufs have no controversy at QB

By: **The Associated Press** | 09/23/11 3:00 PM

The Associated Press

What's brewing with the 2011 Ohio State Buckeyes ...

BUCKEYES BUZZ: With all of the talk about Ohio State's starting QB, there's been very little about Colorado's.

And let's get this out of the way right up front: Tyler Hansen is good.

He has completed 61 of 111 passes (55 pct.) for 912 yards and 7 TDs with just 1 INT for the Buffaloes (1-2).

"He does a great job of keeping the play alive," Ohio State interim coach Luke Fickell said. "He scrambles maybe more to throw than he maybe scrambles to run at times. To me, that's the sign of a really good quarterback."

Hansen has also rushed for two TDs.

"I've told him that it is OK to run," said Bufs coach Jon Embree. "What Tyler has done so far this season so far is making good decisions. Understanding when it is OK to throw it away and live for another down, when it is, 'Oh, I better get something out of this.' A good example was right before half (against Colorado State) in the two-minute (offense), faking like he was going to go out of bounds and then he stayed and cut back and picked up the first down and moved the chains."

The Buckeyes did not sack Miami QB Jacory Harris. Fickell was asked about that.

"We've always got to be able to get after the quarterback," he said. "We understand that. To me, sometimes the most overrated stat can be sacks because if that's all you're thinking about then sometimes you're not doing the things you need to do. So it's not like we're going to sit here and say, 'Oh, we didn't have one single sack. That's something that hurt us.' Obviously, it's glaring, it comes up. But we can't change exactly everything we're doing. We know every game, always, you have to affect the QB."

LUCRATIVE TRIP: Colorado's contract calls for it to receive \$1.4 million for the game at Ohio Stadium.

Schools which travel to play in Hawaii are permitted a 13th game to help offset the expense of such a trip. Ohio State was looking for a home game to fill out its schedule, so the game came into being late last fall when the schedule makers at ESPN noticed the open weekend for both teams on Sept. 24 and pitched the idea. Colorado agreed contingent that the game would be televised nationally. It will be, on ABC.

SAFETY FIRST: There could be a change at the safety position for the Buckeyes.

Christian Bryant is pressing Orhian Johnson at one spot.

Asked who will start, Fickell said, "Christian Bryant may. It depends on what personnel (situation) we're in."

SHORTLIVED CELEBRATION: Embree was asked how long he was able to enjoy Colorado's 28-14 win over rival Colorado State last Saturday: "Probably Sunday morning at 8 o'clock when I woke up."

GIVING BACK I: In case you notice a special arm patch being worn by Fickell, Embree or any other college coach this week, it represents a nice charitable gesture on their part.

This is "Coach to Cure MD" week again in college football, a day when coaching staffs nationwide will be wearing the patches to raise awareness of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. A total of 109 out of the 120 Football Bowl Subdivision schools will be taking part.

The Ohio State coaching staff will be wearing the patches on Saturday, as will all 11 active Big Ten teams. Northwestern is idle but will wear the patches Oct. 22 vs. Penn State.

This is the fourth year of "Coach to Cure MD," a partnership between the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) and Parent Project MD. The program will top \$1 million in donations this season for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is the most common fatal childhood genetic disorder. It is a progressive muscle disorder that causes loss of muscle function and independence. There is no cure and life expectancy is just in the 20's. Research to find a cure is under way on many college campuses. Football fans have helped Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy make muscle research grants to Ohio State, UCLA, Florida, and Missouri among others.

Fans may donate \$5 by texting "CURE" to 90999, or they by going to www.CoachtoCureMD.org.

GIVING BACK II: Colorado TB Brian Lockridge has been honored for his contributions off the field. Among his charitable acts is playing the piano at a local community hospital.

"It is just something that I love doing," he said. "You go in the lobby and play for the patients or whoever is in there or walks in. Some individuals are probably having a bad day, just got some bad news or maybe some good news. Whatever the case is, I'm just there to try and relax them and get them emotionally sound so they can get on with the rest of their day. It relaxes me also, so it is a win-win situation."

He said it is so rewarding because no one knows that he plays college football.

"That is one good thing about it," he said. "They don't love me because I play a sport, they just enjoy my company and the music that I play. It probably helps them out, ease the day, and some cases I have actually had people come up crying, (a song) reminded them of their mom or someone around them and it was a good feeling. You never know what your actions may do and who they may affect around you. It's a blessing for me."

URL: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/news/health/2011/09/bufs-have-no-controversy-qb>

The News Herald (news-herald.com), Serving Northern Ohio

Sports

College football: Ohio State hopes to get back on track vs. Colorado

Friday, September 23, 2011

By John Kampf

JKampf@News-Herald.com

COLUMBUS — A breather would be nice.

After getting smacked around on both sides of the ball in a 24-6 loss to Miami last weekend, Ohio State could probably use a cupcake right now.

The Buckeyes will be breaking in a new quarterback today, they'll be looking to get untracked a receiving unit that was held without a catch last weekend, and they'll be trying to kick-start a defensive unit that has had trouble getting out of the gate unscathed the past two weeks.

That's just the tip of the iceberg.

If anyone needs a creampuff on the schedule right now, it's the Buckeyes.

They're not going to get it.

Unranked Ohio State (2-1) welcomes Colorado into the Horseshoe on Saturday for a 3:30 p.m. kickoff. The Buffaloes, albeit at 1-2, are anything but a breather.

"This is why we come to Ohio State, for the challenges," said junior defensive end John Simon. "Facing great teams every week, that's why we come here."

It would be different if Ohio State only had to concentrate on Colorado this week. But after last week's across-the-board breakdown at Miami, the Buckeyes have devoted a lot of time this week in practice to fixing their own issues.

At the forefront is the announcement of Braxton Miller as the starting quarterback. Coach Luke Fickell said "we need both" quarterbacks, referring to former starter Joe Bauserman, but it is unclear how much — if at all — Bauserman will play against the Buffaloes.

The aforementioned receiving problems, slow starts by the defense, lingering depth issues caused by suspensions and other position battles — such as Christian Bryant possibly getting more playing time at safety over Ohrian Johnson — are also being dealt with.

"You have to come back and forget about the previous loss," said junior fullback Zach Boren. "It's that fighting mentality you have to have."

Added Simon, "Since the game, I mean, we're fired up. It's an exciting week for us."

Against a very worthy opponent.

While the Buffaloes are only 1-2, they've put up a lot of points in a 34-17 season-opening loss to Hawaii and a 36-33 overtime loss to California.

Senior running back Rodney Stewart, who had 191 total yards of offense against Colorado State, returns to Columbus this weekend after starring in high school at Brookhaven.

Colorado quarterback Tyler Hanson ranks 17th nationally in total offense (309.7 yards per game), while receiver Paul Richardson is 11th nationally in receiving (120 yards per game).

Not only does Ohio State's new-look offense, with Miller in charge, have something to prove, but so does the OSU defense against an electric Colorado offense.

"Everything stands out," Simon said. "They got a great wide receiver corps, great offensive line, real good quarterback, running back, threats all over the field."

Today's game is an important one for a multitude of reasons. First, the Buckeyes do not want to lose two games in a row for the first time since 2004 (when OSU lost three in a row to Northwestern, Wisconsin and Iowa).

This is also the last tuneup for the Buckeyes before next week's Big Ten opener when Michigan State comes to Columbus.

With so much on the plate, and against a dangerous opponent like Colorado, Ohio State is embracing the challenge.

Even if Akron Part II would be nice right now for them.

"These are the things you look forward to," Simon said. "You never want to lose, but you get to see what kind of team you have this week, seeing how we're going to react and build off that loss."

URL: <http://www.news-herald.com/articles/2011/09/23/sports/nh4542083.prt>

© 2011 news-herald.com, a **Journal Register** Property

ACROSS THE BALL**Hansen knows all about QB shuffle**By **Bob Baptist**

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2011 11:05 AM

Comments: 0

[Recommend](#)

1

[ShareThis](#)

Tyler Hansen has empathy for Ohio State quarterbacks Braxton Miller and Joe Bauserman and the unsteady ground they stand on now.

He tried to put his best foot forward for three years at Colorado but never was sure what he was stepping into.

"It's a difficult situation going back and forth between guys," Hansen said. "I know what it's like.

"But I'm sure they're doing it right. You've got to find a guy somehow, and the only way you're going to find out who the guy is is to put him into the fire. I feel for them, but I know what they're going through and I wish the best for them."

While Miller makes his first start and Bauserman reportedly will still play today in Ohio Stadium, Hansen is secure as Colorado's quarterback. A senior, he ranks 17th nationally in total offense, averaging 309.7 yards per game, including 500 in an overtime loss at California two weeks ago.

The past three years, though, Hansen started 16 games and Cody Hawkins the other 20. Hawkins is the son of Dan Hawkins, who was fired as Buffaloes coach with three games left last year. An unidentified player implied to the Denver Post afterward that the fifth-year coach caused dissension among players by never recruiting a highly rated quarterback to challenge his son.

"It definitely was a little tough. There were some situations that were difficult to handle, for sure," Hansen said this week. "I think me and Cody handled it the best we could, but it definitely was a little awkward most of the time. It's never where you want to be in your college career, and I didn't think it was going to be like that."

Cody Hawkins was a redshirt sophomore when Hansen arrived from Murrieta, Calif., in 2008 expecting to also redshirt for a year. Midway through the season, though, with coaches wanting to jump-start the offense in the first quarter of a game, Hansen was asked whether he would burn the redshirt, and he did.

"I was young, I wanted to play right away, and I made



Tyler Hansen

that decision right when they asked me. I was like, 'Yeah, let's do it,'" Hansen said.

[Purchase any of these photos at the OSU Photo Store](#)

"I don't regret it at all. You play this game long enough and you realize that your football career could end on one play, so when you get a chance to play, you've got to take that chance."

So began the game of musical chairs at the position. Hansen started twice more that season. In 2009, Hawkins started the first five games and Hansen the last seven. Last year, Hansen started the first seven games before suffering a ruptured spleen and missing the rest of the season.

This year, with Hawkins out of the picture, a new coaching staff headed by Jon Embree named Hansen the starter after spring practice, something the quarterback said had never happened under the old regime.

"It always went into fall camp," he said. "Being named the starter so early this year, it gave me a great confidence boost. I think Coach Embree and the staff have 100 percent confidence in me, so that helps me out a lot because now I can go out on Saturday and let it loose and just play."

Hansen has passed for 912 yards and seven touchdowns with one interception in three games. He also has rushed for 52 yards in the past two games, leading him to amend one of his previous statements. He does have one regret about burning his redshirt year.

"I would love to have one more year with these (coaches)," he said. "It's a great staff, they have a lot of knowledge of the game, and I think I would benefit from one more year."

[Favorite](#)[Print Story](#)[Email](#)

A horizontal banner advertisement for Budget car rental. On the left, a silver SUV is shown. Next to it is a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue shirt, holding a camera. The text "Feeling a little cramped?" is written in white over the car. Below it, "Need some space?" is written in orange. To the right, a blue box contains the text "So have yourself some fun - and GO BUDGET!" in white. Below that, "Intermediate SUV as low as \$22/weekend/day" is written in white. On the far right, the Budget logo is shown in white on a blue background, with a yellow button below it that says "GET THIS DEAL" in black.