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cu football

Hansen says CU must get creative when Richardson is shut down

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

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For the second week in a row, Colorado sprinter/receiver Paul Richardson apparently was targeted in the opponent's defensive game plan with big, boldface letters and maybe an exclamation mark or three. Look for that to continue if CU doesn't adjust any better to Richardson getting shut down.

Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen said the Buffs must get more players involved and find more weapons. CU, which was blasted 37-17 at Ohio State on Saturday, mustered just one touchdown before generating a late fourth-quarter scoring drive against a Buckeyes defense that by then had substituted.

"We're going to have to get creative," Hansen said.

Colorado's inaugural Pac-12 schedule begins this week. CU's staff faces the challenge

of trying to inject some sizzle into an offense that fell flat against Ohio State, going 3-for-13 on third-down conversions.

There aren't many 14-10 scores in the pass-happy Pac-12. Touchdowns are needed. In bunches.

"We have a lot of guys that can make plays," Hansen said. "We need to find new ways to get the playmakers the ball."

In the two games since Richardson's breakout, 284-yard receiving game against Cal, the sophomore has had little impact, with four catches for 27 yards against Colorado State and four for 38 against Ohio State. And no touchdowns.

Next up for CU is Washington State (2-1) at home Saturday.

"Defenses are going to take notice of where '6' is," Hansen said, referring to Richardson's jersey number. "He's a great player. Defenses are going to find him on every play."

"So, it's going to be tough. We're going to use him in certain situations where people aren't expecting him to get the ball. We'll keep working on it."

One source of encouragement is senior tight Ryan Deehan, who caught three passes for a career-high 71 yards Saturday.

"With what (the Buckeyes) were doing defensively, the middle of the field was open and we utilized that a little bit," Hansen said. "We

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need to do that a little more."

Senior wideout Toney Clemons also was able to get into the end zone for the second consecutive game. Clemons pulled Colorado to within 17-7 with 2:44 left before halftime with a leaping grab for an 11-yard touchdown.

"I just have to keep making plays," Clemons said. "I have to let teams know that we have two elite receivers out there, instead of just one. I'm starting to get in rhythm. I'm hitting my stride."

A stagnant running game is putting pressure on the receiving corps. Senior tailback Rodney Stewart is trying to fight through a banged-up right shoulder. He rushed for 55 yards on 11 carries and had five receptions, but CU had no consistent running game, a season-long issue.

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CU eye on: Washington State Cougars

Washington St. at CU, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, FCS Pacific

For the record: Washington State (2-1) is coming off a bye week. The Cougars lost 42-24 at San Diego State on Sept. 17. This is the Pac-12 opener for both teams.

Streaking: Washington State is averaging 49 points, fifth best nationally. The Cougars put 64 points on the board against Idaho State and 59 against UNLV.

Who's hot: Running back Rickey Galvin, a fleet redshirt freshman from Berkeley, Calif., is averaging 8.4 yards per carry and has scored three touchdowns. His backup, true freshman Marcus Mason, averages 8.5 yards.

Who's not: The Washington State defense. Against a weak nonconference schedule, the Cougars are ranked 68th nationally in total

defense, yielding an average of 370.3 yards per game.

Key stat: 5-32. That was coach Paul Wulff's record at Washington State entering this season. But with this being his most experienced team, there is some optimism.

FYI: CU and Washington State had a home-and-home series in 2003-04. The home team lost both times, with CU dropping a 47-26 decision in Boulder in 2003, and Washington State losing 20-12 the following year in Pullman, Wash.

Injury report: Quarterback Jeff Tuel suffered a broken clavicle in the Sept. 3 season opener against Idaho State. The recovery time is usually four to six weeks. It is not known whether he will be available for Saturday's game in Boulder. *Tom Kensler, The Denver Post*

CSU eye on: San Jose State Spartans

San Jose St. at Colorado St., 2 p.m., Saturday, The Mtn.

For the record: San Jose State is 1-3, 1-1 in the Western Athletic Conference. The Spartans are coming off of a 34-24 victory against New Mexico State on Saturday.

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Streaking: Colorado State is 3-1-0 all time against San Jose State. The teams have not met since 1997.

Who's hot: Senior running back Brandon Rutley ran for 209 yards and two touchdowns in the Spartans' victory against New Mexico State. Rutley has 388 yards and four TDs this season.

Who's not: San Jose State's rushing defense. The Spartans are 109th in the nation against the run, allowing a whopping 214.7 rushing yards per game.

Key stat: San Jose State is averaging 17 points per game, which puts the Spartans near the bottom in scoring average.

FYI: Despite its horrendous defensive performance, San Jose State is among the better teams in takeaways (seven) but is also prone to giveaways (10). . . . San Jose State's win over New Mexico State stopped a 13-game losing streak. . . . The Spartans had a season-high 466 total yards of offense in their win.

Injury report: San Jose State defensive tackle Joe Nigos (knee) is questionable.

— Chris Dempsey, *The Denver Post*

Air Force eye on: Navy Midshipmen

Air Force vs. Navy, Annapolis. Md., 10 a.m., Saturday, KCNC-4 **Navy is 2-1 after a 24-21 loss to No. 10 South Carolina.**

For the record:

Streaking: Senior defensive end Jabaree Tuani has started 38 of the last 39 games. He excels at rushing the passer.

Who's hot: Senior quarterback Kriss Proctor, who leads the team in rushing with 267 yards, has also thrown for 207 yards.

Who's not: The outside linebackers. Senior Josh Tosh is out for the season because of an injury. Senior Jarred Shannon (shoulder), senior Mason Graham (knee) and sophomore Keegan Wetzel (concussion) are banged up but expected to play.

Key stat: Navy is 24-3 when scoring first and 18-3 when leading after the first quarter in Ken Niumatalolo's coaching term.

FYI: Navy won 14 consecutive games against Army and Air Force before losing 14-6 to Air Force last year. Air Force went on to win the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. . . . Air Force senior defensive end Zach Payne (knee) and sophomore cornerback Chris Miller (lower leg), both starters, were injured Saturday and are out indefinitely, according to Falcons coach Troy Calhoun.

— Irv Moss, *The Denver Post*

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Jon Embree's situation similar to that of Washington State coach

Wulff's rebuilding project coming along at alma mater

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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Patient in Pullman.

That has been the story during the Paul Wulff era at Washington State.

Entering the 2011 campaign, Wulff -- who played for the Cougars from 1986-89 -- had compiled a 5-32 over his first three seasons back on the Palouse.

It appears Washington State, which will visit Boulder this Saturday for Colorado's first official Pac-12 game, has finally turned the corner.

The Cougars, coming off a bye week ahead of the conference grind, will bring an entertaining brand of football to Folsom Field.

Through three games, despite losing starting quarterback Jeff Tuel in the opener, the Cougars (2-1) rank fourth nationally in passing (380.0 yards per game), fifth in scoring (49.0 ppg) and sixth in total offense (539.7 ypg).

"Not every situation when a coach arrives is the same. In this case, being that this is my alma mater and I'm a fan, I think I have a little more interest," Wulff said during a recent interview with the Camera when asked about his rebuilding process. "I was disappointed with where we started. Things were a lot lower here than you would ever want to imagine."

Wulff said the talent level and academic performance at Washington State was as bad as his team's 2-25 record in the Pac-10 over the last three seasons indicates.

The Cougars operated well under the 85 scholarship limit in 2008 and 2009 during the house cleaning. Only five players remain from the original roster the current staff inherited.

"It made for a very challenging situation," Wulff said. "We're starting to see all that work show up, but we've got to continue to grow."

Washington State has home wins over Idaho State (64-21) and UNLV (59-7) and a road loss at San Diego State (42-24) this season.

"It's obvious we have a ton of talent," said Marshall Lobbestael, who has played well since stepping in for Tuel under center. "At the skill positions we have some extremely explosive players. I've done my best to fill in since we lost our starting quarterback. It has been a good start, but we haven't proven anything yet."

Lobbestael has completed 62.4 percent of his passes and thrown for 959 yards and 10 touchdowns with only two interceptions. CU's defense has made opposing signal callers, from Hawaii senior Bryant Moniz to Ohio State freshman Braxton Miller, look like Heisman Trophy candidates.

Marquess Wilson is averaging 28.6 yards per catch with four touchdowns. He caught six passes for 236 yards and two touchdowns against San Diego State. Four different Cougars have at least two touchdown catches through three games.

Tuel, who suffered a broken collarbone, was an honorable mention All Pac-10 selection last season.

"That is part of building a program. You don't center it around one or two players. That shows our growth," Wulff said of being able to overcome an injury to the starting quarterback. "It's still early, but to be able to do that is a good sign and shows that we have more depth."

The Pac-12 has two more teams, CU and Utah, this season. The Cougars plan to welcome the Buffs to the club by beating them Saturday.

"I think the business aspect of Utah and CU coming in is over my head. But what's fun for us is we get to play two new teams," Marshall said of the conference expansion. "We want to make it to a bowl game this year, so every game is going to be big for us."

The Buffs (1-3) are coming off a 37-17 loss at Ohio State, which extended the program's undying out-of-state losing streak to 20 games. Despite a 2-10 record in 2010, Washington State did produce a road victory at Oregon State last season.

Jon Embree, a former CU player, is also taking on a difficult rebuilding job at his alma mater.

"You look at them and they have good players for a first-year situation. They've got some young players that are good as well. Physically, it looks like they can match up well," Wulff said before the Buffs' defeat in Columbus. "I think (Embree) is going to do a good job. He has quality assistants around him. The most important thing is you have to stick with your plan.

...

"I definitely think it's helpful (coaching at your school) because you understand the climate a lot more."

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