



Former CU players B.J. Beatty (left) and Chris Naeole attended CU's brief practice Friday at Aloha Stadium.
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



Brooks: It's Business First On Embree's First Trip

Release: 09/03/2011 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

KAPOLEI, Hawaii - My body's wakeup call came at 1:30 a.m. local time, or 5:30 a.m. MDT. That's close to routine. But Friday morning was one of those wake ups in an unfamiliar place, not quite sure of the surroundings and needing quick help in determining them.

It was still dark but I could faintly hear the surf . . . peaceful reassurance that we weren't in a Holidome somewhere in Kansas.

The JW Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa, about 18 or 19 easy-on-the-eyes miles west of Honolulu, is a pretty nice place to start a business trip, which first-year Colorado football coach Jon Embree promised this would be. He and the Buffs have enough invested in this trip that treating it like anything else would be a huge mistake.

This is a place where distractions await with every blink of the eye and can be behind every palm frond. But a day and a half

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into this trip, Embree seemed convinced that things were going according to plan, his plan. He wants it to be about business, but not business as usual.

Not long after their roughly 7-hour plane ride to get here, then another hour bus ride through horrendous midday Thursday traffic to get to the hotel, the Buffs had a short practice. It was held on the hotel grounds, which feature a shortened football field, replete with one set of goal posts, where both NFL squads have worked for past Pro Bowls.

Embree called that brief practice "very, very good . . . awesome, in fact, when you consider just coming off the plane and what we did. They're having fun; I was worried about us being too tight, too up for the playing the game early in our minds. But we're in a good mindset . . . let's go."

He believes his first CU team is, indeed, ready to go against Hawai'i here Saturday afternoon (8:20 p.m. MDT, ESPN2) in his head coaching debut. It would surprise him greatly if the Buffs aren't ready to go. It has been a grueling 10 months of complete change for CU football. Not much residue of the previous four seasons remains, with the glaring exception of an 18-game road losing streak that Embree can't wait to unburden himself and the program of.

"It's important for these kids to know that's not OK," he said earlier this week. "They need to know when they end this streak it'll never happen again, and the classes that follow will have to know it'll never happen again. The only way to get that point across is to talk about it. If you don't talk about it you're pretending that it hasn't happened, like it's not there. I'm not afraid of it and they're not afraid of it. They understand the challenge that's in front of them and they're looking forward to it."

One of the players on the 2007 CU roster when the Buffs won at Texas Tech was linebacker B.J. Beatty, a 2010 graduate who has returned to the islands and attended Friday's walk-through at Aloha Stadium with his younger brother. Also attending was former CU All-America guard Chris Naeole, who has retired from a 12-year NFL career and now is a volunteer assistant at Iolani High School. Naeole, a truly scary guy if you don't know him, addressed the team during their post-practice huddle.

Beatty, who hopes to play professionally in Japan next season, shook his head Friday morning when I asked him about the Buffs' staggering road loss streak.

How to explain it? He started with "a lack of leadership," mentioning no names, but intimating that shortage was compounded by a lack of accountability. "I hear all that's changed," Beatty said.

Embree and his staff hope so; if it hasn't, then much of what they have been hammering into the Buffs since last December won't be apparent here Saturday or in the Saturdays to follow this season. I don't think that will be the case; in reflecting on last August and the run-up to what would be Dan Hawkins' final season, there was a false confidence among players that last through September before unraveling in the season's final two months.

I'm no soothsayer, but I don't get that same vibe from this team. Maybe it's intensity from the guys coaching them, but there seems to be an edge here that wasn't there in 2010 or before.

"From a physical and mental standpoint, the coaches expect you to be able to handle what they ask of you," senior safety and co-captain Anthony Perkins said. "That's tough some days, but I feel like it's making us a better team."

As Embree stood in his locker room at Aloha Stadium Friday morning with players filing in around him, he said, "I like this, I like the noise. Guys are having fun. I told them just because you're quiet and you're walking around with a stern look on your face doesn't mean you're ready. If you're laughing and having fun with each other doesn't mean you're *not* ready. We've prepared; we've put the work in. I'll make sure when it's time, it's time."

Among the things I've noticed in his post-practice huddles during preseason camp and after is that Embree usually reminds his team that he and his staff might seem tyrannical at times but their players will be taken care

of. On countless occasions, he's said, in so many words, "What we're asking today is going to be difficult, but I promise we'll see that you get your rest. Trust me on that."

And that's how it's worked. Contact has been dramatically tapered for the last 10 days. Overall, the Buffs should be as healthy for this opener as they've been in recent years. Embree's biggest pregame concern from a health standpoint was having to leave freshman tackle Alex Lewis at home because he developed flu symptoms before the team departed. Embree didn't want to put the rest of his players at risk during a 7-hour flight.

From a strategic standpoint, the only expected game-day change will be keeping offensive coordinator/running backs coach Eric Bieniemy on the sideline rather than having him call plays from the coach's box. Taking his place upstairs will be assistant head coach/quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer, who 34 years ago this week coached in his first college game as a member of former coach Dick Tomey's UH staff. (Ironically, Tomey has returned as the Warriors' special teams coach.)

Embree said "everyone was more comfortable" with Bieniemy, who still will call offensive plays, being on the sideline and Scherer in the booth: "We can get everything we want done with him on the sidelines. And it'll help free me up to be with the defense, although I'll be involved on both sides of the ball."

And, Embree conceded, Bieniemy's fire might be felt better from near rather than from afar: "Yeah, there's a little bit of that involved, too."

Embree said he had been thinking for a long time about what to tell his team on the Friday night before its opener and his college coaching debut. But for as long as that's been and the thought he's given it, the message would be astoundingly simple.

"I just want them to understand how far they've come," he said. "And I want them to realize this is an opportunity, and that nothing's going to be given to us. We've been talking a bunch about focusing on the task at hand, going one game at a time. I'm going to let them know they've prepared well, that they're ready. Then, go out and have fun."

Oh, yes, and make it worthwhile by winning. When the long streak of road 'L's ends, the fun begins. Otherwise, it goes back on hold for a 7-hour plane ride - and beyond.

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SHOW MENU



Brian Cabral: The heart of CU Buffs at home in Hawaii

CU fixture helps lead Buffs into Hawaii for opener

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

Posted:09/03/2011 12:13:13 AM MDT

KAILUA, Hawaii -- Ask just about any Colorado football recruit why he decided to play for the Buffaloes and you'll hear a familiar refrain.

As we made the drive from Denver and started the descent down the hill on Highway 36, the view of the Flatirons ...

Brian Cabral was just like so many other wide-eyed freshmen-to-be who have fallen in love with Boulder over the years, but the great Buffs linebacker and longtime assistant left paradise for a CU life.

The drive east from Honolulu on the Pali Highway leads to another breathtaking scene where the pure blue water and pristine beaches of Kailua Bay collide in a perfect postcard setting.

This is where Cabral, the most tenured assistant coach in CU history for any sport, grew up in the proud Polynesian culture.

Which makes tonight a very special homecoming for the local football legend as the Buffaloes roam into the heart of Oahu to play Hawaii in the season opener at Aloha Stadium (8:15 p.m., ESPN2).

"It's going to be a great challenge. I'm one of the players that left Hawaii to come to the mainland to play. I guess I've got to prove why I left the islands," Cabral said. "Hawaii football has come a long way since I was recruited. They've come a long way in the last 15 years or so. It's a different program and a different team."

When Cabral was a senior at St. Louis High School, Hawaii was a struggling independent program. The Warriors were only able to schedule five games -- West Coast trips to Washington and Fresno State, and home games against Pacific, San Jose State and Utah during the 1973 season.

Meanwhile, the Buffs were building a roster talented enough to compete with national powers Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Cabral emerged as a captain on CU's Big Eight championship and Orange Bowl team in 1976. After graduating, he played for nine seasons in the NFL and won a Super Bowl as the special teams captain of the 1986 Chicago Bears.

Cabral said playing under the Friday night lights on Oahu helped prepare him for the competition at the game's highest level.

"High school football is very competitive in Hawaii. The nature of the kids on the island and the Polynesian kids is very physical, very tough," Cabral said. "They love their football in Hawaii. They love their high school football, as well as the university's football."

After retiring as a professional player, Cabral returned to Boulder and joined the CU staff as a graduate assistant in 1989. Over the years he has worked for Bill McCartney, Rick Neuheisel, Gary Barnett and Dan Hawkins.

When Jon Embree was hired as CU's new head coach on Dec. 6, 2010, one of the first calls he made was to offer Cabral a job and a raise.

"I told athletic director Mike Bohn to get ready to name a street after him at some point," Embree said. "Maybe we'll name that hill that we have to walk up (after practice) the 'Brian Cabral Hill.' ... I sat in the back of the room (during camp) and listened to the linebackers, and just listening to how he teaches and coaches. That is why he is a great coach, because he is a great teacher. That is what we are in it as coaches. If you are not in it to teach kids, then you are not going to make it. That is why he has lasted so long at the level that he has."

Hawkins was fired with three games remaining on the 2010 schedule. The Buffs were on a five-game losing streak, punctuated by an epic collapse at Kansas, during which CU blew a 28-point lead for the first time in the program's 121-year history.

An emotional Cabral was named the interim head coach and rallied the team to a 2-1 record while restoring some traditions that had been ignored over the previous five years.

"There was so much we didn't know because of the Hawk era. Coach Cabral brought a lot of the tradition back and he just really wanted us to go out there and play our hearts out like we did," junior linebacker Doug Rippey said. "No matter what we did, win, lose or draw, he wanted us to go out there and play our hearts out."

Over the years, Cabral has developed young Buffs like Matt Russell, Greg Biekert, Ted Johnson, Chad Brown and Jashon Sykes into NFL players.

"You go in Brian's office and he's got pictures of linebackers that graduated from here that he coached, and it's just staggering. It's Linebacker U with what Brian's done here," said defensive coordinator Greg Brown, who is in his third stint coaching at CU alongside Cabral. "You ask these players about Brian and they're going to smile from ear to ear. He's done a great job. He's no nonsense, he's hard-nosed, he's tradition. And he's a great person, too."

Cabral loves the Butkus Award winners and Pro Bowl stars the Buffs have produced. It's obvious, however, that he takes special pride in coaching, teaching and mentoring players from Hawaii, like recent standouts Jordon Dizon and B.J. Beatty.

"It's our foundation, our home," Paulay Asiata, a freshman linebacker from the powerful St. Louis High School program that produced Cabral, said of the connection. "So I think it will mean a lot to him."

When asked if it was going to be an emotional game for him, Cabral paused, collected himself and said: "It will be an exciting day."

This is a business trip for CU football. The program is desperate to end a humiliating 17-game road losing streak, and to kick the Embree era off with a victory. The players aren't even allowed to hang out at the beach and must adhere to an early curfew.

Cabral won't be making the gorgeous drive to Kailua, but he visits every year during the recruiting cycle and for vacation. Most of the town will be at Aloha Stadium anyway.

"Coach Cabral has been the heartbeat of this university for a very long time. Those guys rallied around him last year and they got a piece of what our history and tradition is about," said Eric Bieniemy, CU's offensive coordinator and a star running back on the 1990 national championship team. "It's hard to imagine Coach Cabral not being here. He's very much a part of the family. He's the guy. ...

"I'm sure we may have to give him some sleeping pills so he can sleep through the night and get a good night's sleep. I'm sure he's going to be pretty amped up for this game."

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CU Buffs' running game will be pivotal against Hawaii

Jon Embree era kicks off Saturday night

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

Posted:09/03/2011 12:08:09 AM MDT

HONOLULU -- There shouldn't be any bulletin board material posted inside the home team's locker room for the season opener.

The Buffs respect the Warriors. As 6½-point underdogs, they better.

But a brash Twitter post earlier in the week from starting right guard Ryan Miller sums up the refreshing new attitude inside Colorado's offensive huddle.

"I will not tolerate mediocrity," Miller tweeted. "I will dominate my opponents."

The game plan depends on it.

CU will almost certainly have to run the ball with authority and control the time of possession in order to end a 17-game true road game losing streak with a victory over Hawaii here tonight at Aloha Stadium (8:15 p.m., ESPN2).

"Part of running the football is: Can you implement your will on the other team? Are we going to throw the first punch?" said Jon Embree, who is looking to become the first CU head coach to win his debut since Rick Neuheisel in 1995. "Throwing the first punch means offensively you line up and run the ball down their throat. They know what's coming, they don't stop it. It has been successful in the past here, and I know we can get back to doing that.

"I know we have the right kind of kids in this program that buy into that and understand that mindset. To run the football, you have to be an unselfish player."

In 2001, the Buffs ran their way to the program's only Big 12 championship when Embree was an assistant on Gary Barnett's staff.

A decade later, offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy -- CU's running backs coach the day Chris Brown was abusing Nebraska's "Blackshirts" -- is counting on 5-foot-6 Rodney Stewart to carry the program back to respectability in the Pac-12.

One of last season's highlights for the team was of "Speedy" Stewart gashing Hawaii's defense for 106 yards and two touchdowns during CU's 31-13 victory at Folsom Field. "Speedy has had a very good camp. He has come a long way, especially in pass protection," Embree said. "Speedy has done very well. I'm excited for him. It's a big year for him in a lot of ways. There's a lot for him to play for this year."

Stewart enters the season fifth on CU's all-time rushing list with 2,744 yards. He can break Bieniemy's school record by rushing for 1,197 yards in 13 games.

Tyler Hansen will once again be handing the ball off to the tailbacks and also transitioning from Dan Hawkins' anemic spread attack to a more traditional pro-style offense.

The senior signal caller from Temecula, Calif., threw for 1,102 yards with six touchdowns and six interceptions in 2010 before suffering a ruptured spleen last October and turning the huddle back over to Cody Hawkins.

This is clearly Hansen's team now. Embree named him the starter after spring drills, and the Buffs will go as far as No. 9 can take them.

"I'm going to be a game manager and let the playmakers outside and let Rodney get after it," Hansen said. "I think that's

what I want to do as a quarterback. I think you need to play like that."

That's not the strategy Hansen's counterpart will be trying to execute tonight. Bryant Moniz led the nation in passing (360.0 yards per game) and touchdowns (39) during the Warriors' 10-win campaign.

"He believes in himself, and the team feeds off of him. He's accurate and it's obvious he knows where to go with the ball," Embree, who coached former Hawaii star quarterback Colt Brennan when they were with the Washington Redskins, said of Moniz. "He's very underrated for a couple of reasons, one, people don't see him play. And two, I think people give too much credit to the system."

The Buffs will be starting two new cornerbacks, true freshman Greg Henderson and converted safety Travis Sandersfeld, but Hawaii loses its top six receivers and all five offensive linemen from 2010.

"I'm sure all the receivers they have coming in this year are going to be just as athletic, just as fast. Their quarterback, he's a Heisman candidate," senior safety Anthony Perkins said. "We're going to go out there and do what we can to try to limit their big plays. They're going to complete passes, (Moniz) is going to make plays, but what we have to do is be able to contain that and sort of limit the damage I guess."

Only six true freshmen have ever started an opener for CU on offense or defense, including Bieniemy in 1987. In addition to Henderson, true freshman Tyler McCulloch (wide receiver) and redshirt freshman Daniel Munyer (center) are also expected to start tonight's critical opener.

And on special teams, the Buffs will rely on two more freshmen -- place-kicker Will Oliver and punter Darragh O'Neill -- to get their jobs done.

"I remember what it was like when I played as a freshman. I sprained my ankle on a Thursday, and coach (Bill McCartney) wasn't going to let me travel unless I could run on Friday morning," Embree said. "I remember the trainer spent all night in the room and he just kept icing it. I knew how important it was to be on that trip and play. I get that same sense of urgency from these guys."

"When I look back on my freshman season, there's a lot I didn't know, and it was probably better that way. Same for these guys."

Everyone in the visitors' locker room realizes how important this game is to say Aloha to the road losing skid and start the Embree era off with a Gatorade bath.

"The losing has been hanging over our heads for a while," senior nose tackle Conrad Obi said. "The question is: What are you going to do about it?"

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Thorburn: Test begins Saturday night for Jon Embree's CU Buffs

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:09/03/2011 12:08:15 AM MDT

HONOLULU -- On any given Po'aono ...

Jon Embree believes in himself. He trusts his coaching staff. He has already forged an emotional connection with the senior class and developed confidence in members of his first recruiting class.

Five-year plan? Whether the program is ready or not close, the competitor inside Colorado's first-year head coach wants to start winning now.

"I just want to get one more point. I don't care if it's 3-2," Embree said. "We have to create that culture. All that other stuff, style points and all that, it doesn't matter.

"I hope I can sit here and be called the worst 5-0 team in the country. I'd rather be that than the best 0-5 team any day."

The Buffs' road to respectability, let alone a return to national prominence, is longer than the flight here from DIA.

The program is just waking up from a nightmare that began with a loss to Montana State five years ago and finally concluded with a collapse for the ages at Kansas last November.

There isn't much depth on the CU roster, especially at important little positions like quarterback and linebacker.

Only five players on the roster remember the team's last road victory in 2007 at Texas Tech. That's 18 consecutive losses in games played outside the Centennial State borders if you're counting at home.

And the Buffs take on arguably the most difficult schedule in the country -- seven true road games, drawing Oregon and Stanford from the Pac-12 North and no bye weeks -- starting tonight against WAC-favorite Hawaii at Aloha Stadium.

Even though the team emerged from rock bottom when Brian Cabral took over on an interim basis for the final three games last season, outside expectations for the 2011 Buffs are universally low.

Yet Embree's dreams are limitless.

"We've talked about a 15-round fight," Tyler Hansen said. "Embree said we have 13 rounds guaranteed, so those 14th and 15th rounds, we're going to fight for them."

Hansen is obviously referring to the Pac-12 championship game as Round 14. It sounds stranger than fiction, but would you want a senior quarterback taking snaps who didn't believe in such fairy tales?

Round 15 would be a major bowl game. Most CU fans would settle for the New Mexico Bowl; Albuquerque is a much nicer place to be than at the bottom of the conference standings.

"We're going to be underdogs in every game," Hansen said. "But we're going to try to surprise people and we're going to sneak up on people."

It's difficult to imagine the Buffs surviving this fight if they don't get off to a strong start in the early rounds, starting tonight against Hawaii on national television.

Embree has made no secret of the game plan: Lots of Rodney Stewart, and as little as possible of Bryant Moniz (the Warriors' quarterback and a dark horse Heisman Trophy candidate).

"I have expectations in that we are going to hit you in the mouth. I have expectations that we are going to compete. I have expectations that the other teams are going to have to beat us," Embree said. "We are not going out there to lose. Those are my expectations."

The "easy" part of CU's schedule continues with the Folsom Field opener against Cal, the Rocky Mountain Showdown vs. Colorado State in Denver, a severe road test against Ohio State at the Big Horseshoe and the Pac-12 opener against conference punching bag Washington State.

"We'll know after we play those first couple games. We'll know because we can be able to test it then," Embree said last month when asked how the culture change in the program was going. "You can ask me that question probably after the CSU game. We'll know where we are at and how far we still have to go."

A hui hou kakou. (Until we meet again).

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colorado at hawaii

CU Buffs preparing for Hawaii air attack

By John Henderson
The Denver Post

Posted: 09/03/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 09/03/2011 01:42:08 AM MDT

BOULDER — Four weeks ago, cornerback was a four-letter word in Colorado's camp, an abyss that new coach Jon Embree has filled with rookies, converted safeties and nickel backs with bad knees.

As the Embree Era kicks off at 8:15 tonight, CU must find answers to its biggest question while playing against the most prolific passer in the game.

It sounds like a pilot for a bad comedy. Tonight's Colorado-Hawaii game is on national TV, and after three weeks of trial and a decreasing number of errors, Embree has seen enough to feel ESPN2 won't show anything funny.

"I have a lot of confidence in them," Embree said. "I believe a lot in this team. I believe a lot in these players."

Unfortunately, he also believes

a lot in Bryant Moniz. He's the Hawaii quarterback who lit up Colorado's secondary last September for 330 yards on his way to throwing for 5,040 yards and 39 touchdowns in 2010.

Hawaii lost 31-13, but Colorado's cornerbacks were Jimmy Smith, a first-round draft pick, and

Jalil Brown, a fourth-rounder.

Tonight, Moniz goes against senior Travis Sandersfeld, a converted safety starting his first game at cornerback, and Greg Henderson, a true freshman whose last game was with Norco High in Corona, Calif.

The choices became clearer as camp wore on. Sandersfeld is a veteran. He has played in 15 games over three years on special teams, safety and nickel back, and his savvy earned him the job.

"Part of being a good player is knowing what you can't do and not put yourself in that position," Embree said. "Travis does a very good job of that. He does a very good job of using angles. He has good ball awareness. He's a physical player."

Henderson has continued to make big plays in practice against Colorado's best receivers, Paul Richardson and Toney Clemons. Hawaii's lone significant returnee at receiver is Royce Pollard (64 catches, 901 yards, seven TDs in 2010), but with Hawaii's manic run-and-shoot offense, Moniz could top 400 yards a game throwing to surfers.

Without spelling doom, Embree has cushioned the blow to his young corners.

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"I've had a little talk with Greg Henderson, and I already told him, in case he didn't know, the quarterback's going to complete some passes on him," Embree said. "He may complete a couple of touchdowns on him. Don't worry about it. You can't get caught up in the situation and the circumstances. You can't let it become bigger than you."

Henderson, ranked as the No. 10 corner in California last year, got the message. He didn't need one. He watches TV. He sees Darrelle Revis and Champ Bailey get beaten occasionally.

"I have a lot of confidence because I know the playbook, and once you know that you can be more comfortable on the field," Henderson said. "Just preparation gives you more confidence as well."

The trick is what new defensive coordinator Greg Brown, a former secondary coach, can do. The Warriors have no tape on Colorado's defense, giving it a slight edge.

The Buffaloes must get a fierce pass rush. Hawaii gave up 40 sacks last year and has a whole new line. But Moniz often releases passes before a defensive end gets within an area code of him.

"No question, it's to our advantage to change things up," Brown said. "Jalil Brown and Jimmy Smith don't play here anymore. So let's get some help when we can help and let the chips fall as they may."

One problem: Moniz is a third-year starter who knows he's throwing against rookie cornerbacks.

"Being creative, unless we're going to get 12 guys on the field, we're not going to show him anything he hasn't seen," Embree said. "What we have to do and what I've been impressing on the defensive side is we have to do a good job of tackling."

Sandersfeld and Henderson will play on a very small island tonight. And we're not talking about Oahu.

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CU seeking first road win since 2007

9:19 PM, Sep 2, 2011 | [comments](#)

Written by
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HONOLULU (AP) - Millions [travel](#) to Hawaii every year to enjoy the world-famous sand, surf and sun. Buffaloes, however, apparently are not allowed anywhere near the water in Waikiki.

In hopes of snapping a 17-game road losing streak - 18 if you count a loss in the 2007 PetroSun Independence Bowl - first-year Colorado coach Jon Embree isn't allowing any beach time for his players as they prepare to open the season at Hawaii on Saturday night.

"The only beach they'll see is when they land and take off. I'm telling you, it's a business trip," Embree said. "So they either have to get married and have a honeymoon there or maybe we go back there for a bowl [game](#). It's not about the beach."

The Buffaloes, making their debut as a member of the Pac-12, haven't won on the road since beating Texas Tech on Oct. 27, 2007. And Embree isn't shy about addressing the streak.

"It's not OK to lose 18 in a row," he said. "The only way you get that point across is to talk about it. I think if you don't talk about it you're pretending like something hasn't happened. You're pretending like it's not there. I'm not afraid of it and they're not afraid of it. They understand the challenge that's in front of them and looking forward to it."

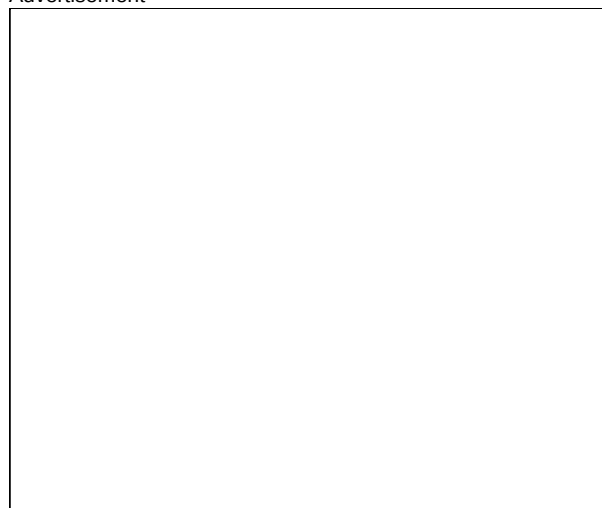
Only five players on this year's squad experienced Colorado's last road victory, including senior guard Ryan Miller.

"It's humongous. I don't care what anybody says," Miller said about getting a road win. "This is where we've got to start. ... We're going to play football. We're not going to enjoy the islands of aloha."

The game marks the first time that Colorado is opening with a true road game since whipping Wisconsin in 1995 in coach Rick Neuheisel's debut.

Winning in the islands is no easy feat for any visiting team. The Warriors were 6-2 at

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Aloha Stadium last year, the fifth straight winning season at home. In addition to all the distractions of playing in paradise, Colorado had to endure a 3,300-mile flight and a four-hour time change.

Colorado will also be facing a Hawaii team still stinging from last year's loss in Boulder. Hawaii controlled the first half and took a 10-0 lead into the locker room, but ran out of gas in the second half and lost 31-13.

"First half we were like, 'Yeah. We're doing it.' Then it comes back to bite us in the butt," said Hawaii linebacker Corey Parades, who had a career-high 16 tackles in the game. "We can't let that happen to us this year. That kind of stuff humbled us as a team and gave us a reality check."

Parades, who led the Warriors with 151 tackles last year, said the loss was a learning experience, which helped the team focus and regroup. Hawaii would win nine of its next 10 games, with its only loss coming to Boise State, and finish the season 10-4.

For Saturday, Parades is being moved to weakside linebacker from his usual middle linebacker position after Aaron Brown was suspended for the game because of his arrest a week ago following a fight at a Waikiki nightclub. Hawaii is also without starting 6-foot-4, 230-pound wideout Darius Bright, who was also arrested and replaced by Allen Sampson, generously listed as 5-foot-7 and 145 pounds.

While Hawaii returns six starters on defense, it returned only three on offense

and lost a lot of firepower, including receivers Greg Salas, Kealoha Pilaes and running back Alex Green, who were all drafted in the NFL.

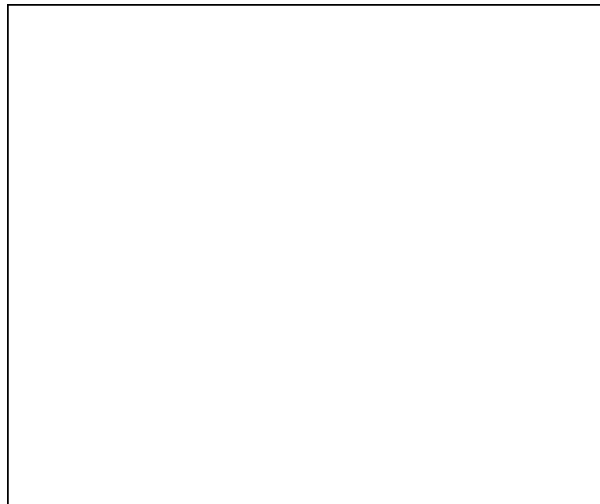
The Warriors will still air it out behind quarterback Bryant Moniz, who last year led the nation in yards passing per game (360) and touchdown passes (39). He became just the 11th Football Bowl Subdivision quarterback to break 5,000 yards in a season. Moniz said the new faces are ready to step up.

"It's just a different person in the helmet. We still have the same offense and our great coaching staff that taught Kealoha and Greg. Now they're teaching new guys," Moniz said. "It's just going to take some time to get comfortable in a game situation. But I think they're ready and hungry."

Embree doesn't think Hawaii's offense will be any less effective.

"As long as they have the trigger guy it doesn't really matter. I kind of equate it to

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Peyton Manning," he said. "He had guys go down last year and they just plugged some other guys in and he just kept on going. Their offense as long as they have their quarterback back there, they'll be just fine."

Colorado will have senior quarterback Tyler Hansen, who hasn't played a game since rupturing his spleen Oct. 23. Hansen said he'll try to help control the ball and clock to help the defense out and keep Hawaii's explosive offense off the field.

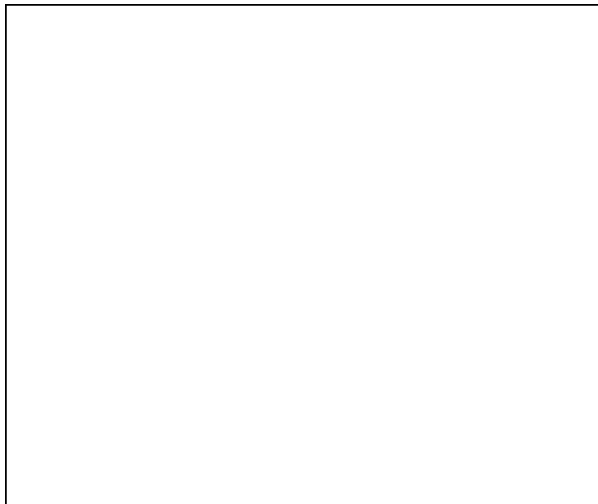
"They can't do much on the sideline, so we're going to try to keep them on the sideline as much as possible," he said.

Hawaii is favored to win the WAC in its final season in the league before leaving for the Mountain West Conference. Last year, it was picked to finish near the bottom, but ended up winning a share of the WAC title. The Warriors have relished the underdog position, but they're in a new position this year without Boise State in the conference.

"I think we have good players. I think we have good leadership. I think we have a good, young team, but we've got to come out and perform," Hawaii coach Greg McMackin said. "I can't predict (how we're going to do this season). If I could do that, everybody in Vegas could be doing that. All I know is this team has really worked hard."

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Catching Up: Hansen runs Buffs now

11:46 PM PDT on Friday, September 2, 2011

Looking around the Pac-12 -- it's still strange to use that term -- as Inland a prepare for the opening week of football ...

Rebuilding Colorado is expected to bring up the rear in the South Division in season in the conference, but **Tyler Hansen** (Temecula Chaparral) will be the undisputed No. 1 quarterback, for a change, as the Buffs open tonight at H

Hansen has had a strange college career, made stranger by his competition Hawkins, son of former coach Dan Hawkins, for the quarterback spot. Now Hawkins is gone and new coach Jon Embree committed to him as the start is said to be relaxed and clear-headed, with the knowledge that the staff has confidence in him.



The Daily Camera
Former Temecula Chaparral standout Tyler Hansen, rolling out during a recent practice, is the

undisputed No. 1 quarterback for Colorado this season.

"It was difficult, it was rough," Hansen told the Denver Post recently. "I tried good face. There were times when I put on a little mask, I guess. I was trying that nothing was going on, nothing was bothering me.

"You have to be politically correct and nice in a situation like that. You have to be positive for the team. I got along with Cody. But, yeah, it was a little awkward when you're in competition with someone, there's going to be a little tension. But in competition with the coach's son, there's going to be more tension."

Said Colorado quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer in an interview with CU Buffs: "Having to look over his shoulder, he knows he's the guy. It's his show. I've coached him to put the offense on his back and put the team on his back -- which is what quarterbacks and good leaders do."

Brandon Magee, part of a Corona Centennial linebacking contingent at Arizona State that also features **Shelly Lyons** and preseason All-American **Vontaze Burfict** is a redshirt this season after rupturing his Achilles' tendon during fall camp. Magee made 11 starts at linebacker last year, also played baseball well enough at the 21st-round draft pick by Oakland.

"That thing will heal," Arizona State coach Dennis Erickson told the Arizona Republic. "They do wonders with those. He could be back for spring football."

Meanwhile, intrasquad work during ASU practices could be interesting. The five Centennial guys: Burfict, Lyons, defensive tackle **Will Sutton**, wideout **Magee** and freshman quarterback **Michael Eubank**. And there are four ex-LSU Cougars: linebacker **Carl Bradford** and offensive linemen **Garth Gerhart**, **John Johnson** and **Adam Tello**, who has nursed a back injury through fall camp and is back for the Sun Devils' Week 2 game against Missouri.

Another former Inland star done for the year is Washington freshman tailback **Cooper** (Perris Citrus Hill), who tore his left anterior cruciate ligament early in practice and will now redshirt.

Before that happened, Cooper, who had enrolled early and participated in spring practice, had impressed Steve Sarkisian to the point where the coach was contemplating finding playing time for him even in a crowded backfield.

Meanwhile, **Chris Polk** (Redlands East Valley) was an uncertain participant in the opener against Eastern Washington as of Friday afternoon. Polk had arthroscopic surgery Aug. 18 to clean up some damage to his meniscus, and he did practice a week, according to the Seattle Times.

ROLL CALL

ASU's Gerhart, Colorado's Hansen and UCLA's **Tony Dye** (Corona Santiago) among those named team captains. ... Other players listed as starters on the depth charts: At Colorado, cornerback **Greg Henderson** (freshman from North Utah, center **Tevita Stevens** (Hemet). At ASU, Burfict, Lyons, Sutton and Corvallis. At Oregon State, running back **Ryan McCants** (Corona Santiago), tackle **Michael Holmes** (San Bernardino Arroyo Valley), guard **Josh Andrews** (Ontario Colony, lives in Fontana) and freshman kicker **Trevor Romaine** (Corona Centennial). At Cal, **Marvin Jones** (lives in Fontana, attended Etiwanda). At UCLA, defensive end **Chris Holmes** (Colton) and free safety Dye. (At USC, middle linebacker **Chris Garmon**, offensive tackle **Matt Kalil** (both live in Corona and attended Anaheim Service Academy), freshman tight end **Junior Pomee** (Moreno Valley Rancho Verde) has been injured foot.

Volleyball: Defensive specialist **Natalie Bookout Gonzalez** (Eastvale Roosevelt) and middle blocker **Ariana Williams** (Riverside Poly) are playing at Oregon (4-2) after upsetting No. 1 Penn State in its opener last weekend -- and on the strength of that win moved up 12 spots to No. 16 in the initial AVCA regular-season rankings. ... Outside hitter **Nora Tuioti-Mariner** (Corona) is averaging 2.0 kills per set for Oregon State, which is 2-2. ... Outside hitter/middle blocker **Arica Nassar** (Lake Elsinore Temescal Canyon) is averaging 1.47 kills a set at Oregon State (2-2), while outside hitter **Krista Vansant** (Redlands East Valley) is averaging 3.0 kills a set and a .333 hitting percentage for 3-0 Washington.

Also: Sophomore goalkeeper **Robby Gogatz** (Murrieta Valley) had a clean first game for Cal this year, a 1-0 shutout of the University of San Francisco. Sophomore forward **Victor Chavez** (Fontana Miller), last season's leading scorer for UCLA with 10 goals, has been listed among Top Drawer Soccer's "100 Players to Watch" list this season, one of seven Bruins to be so honored. ... **Brett Hays** (Fontana, attended La Verne Bonita) is a fifth-year senior for UCLA's No. 3 men's polo team, which opens today in its own invitational tournament. Hays had 24 attempts in 25 games (two starts) in 2010.

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