



# COLORADO BUFFALOES

OFFICIAL ATHLETIC WEBSITE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO



*Spring has been tailback Josh Ford's time to shine, but he wants to change that.*

Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



## Brooks: Josh Ford Hopes To Finally Spring Into Fall

Release: 04/10/2013 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

**BOULDER** – Josh Ford is about to wrap up his last set of spring drills and in August will begin his final fall in Colorado football. Scrutinize his career, specifically his spring vs. fall production, and you start thinking this is a kid who has way too much in common with Daylight Savings Time.

Spring forward, fall back.

Ford is in his third spring as a Buffaloes running back; his spring stats say nobody does it better. In the 10 major spring scrimmages in which he's participated, he's rushed 68 times for 667 yards (9.96 yards a carry) with five touchdowns. Those 10 scrimmages include a pair of spring games that show him with 25 carries for 305 yards (12.2 average) and three TDs. Spring game No. 3 is Saturday (10:30 a.m.) at Folsom Field.

But come fall, for whatever reason, Ford falls back. Oh, he's had his autumnal high points – 10 carries, 73 yards in CU's 48-14 loss at Arizona State in 2011 – and on the first day of August camp last summer he was placed on scholarship. The book on Ford begins and ends with effort, has no space for anyone who takes shortcuts, and is a source of inspiration for his teammates.

CU's former coaching staff couldn't ignore any of that, but Ford still played in only eight games and got only 27 carries (127 yards, one TD) in the Buffs' dismal 1-11 2012 season. Undeterred, he checked in for off-season

conditioning work under the new staff and steeled himself for another chance to spring forward.

Of course, he did. In last week's third scrimmage, he once again led all rushers with eight carries for 136 yards. It served as reaffirmation for what Ford's grandmother had been telling him since he was old enough to listen.

"My grandma always told me there would be a light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "And for me, 'Coach Mac' and these guys are the light . . . it's a blessing to have these coaches come in. They told us (Monday) they didn't want to wait three years to win; they want to win right away. But the big thing is, they care about us as men, as people, and as football players, too. I love it."

"Coach Mac" is Mike MacIntyre; "these guys" are his assistants. Ford is careful not to smudge any of his former coaches because, after all, they rewarded his dedication, his perseverance and his ever-present effort with a scholarship. But Ford took MacIntyre and running backs coach Klayton Adams at their pre-spring word when all the Buffs were told that all positions were open.

That offered Ford a chance, which is all he's ever wanted since walking on at CU three seasons ago.

"I've seen a lot of determination from him, a chip on his shoulder in a good way," said Adams, who also coaches the tight ends. "He's obviously had to fight and scrape and claw for everything he's done as a player here. But the kid is talented; he's a good football player. He's smart, he studies, he works hard. I've been very impressed.

"I think he's going to help this program, but I know this: he doesn't give up, he keeps battling. Some guys would say, to heck with this, I'm going to go do something else. But not Josh; this is really important to him. The thing I like about him is that it's just not important to him that he's successful, it's really important to him that the program is successful. He really cares."

On MacIntyre's first spring "pencil" depth chart, released after spring break, Ford was one of Adams' first four tailbacks. Sophomore Christian Powell and junior Tony Jones were listed as the position's co-leaders, with Ford and sophomore Donta Abron sharing the next spot.

Adams calls the foursome "a group of good football players . . . I think we're in a situation where if we put game plans together correctly we should be able to use a lot of different guys and take advantage of what they do well – unless someone just flat out wins the job."

But even in that scenario, Adams said teams always must be prepared to play more than one back: "Every good team does. You try and spread things out, utilize what guys do well so hopefully one guy is just not getting beat to hell and gets dinged up and is not 100 percent."

Adams' tailback stable is diverse. Powell is 6-0, 240; Jones is 5-7, 190; Ford is 5-9, 205; Abron is 5-10, 190. The difference between Powell and Jones is a noticeable change of pace, but each member of the quartet offers something different.

Powell, said Adams, "doesn't try to shake very many guys in open space; he knows that he's going to have try and make somebody pay when they come tackle him. And he knows they're going to come low at him."

Jones, he added, "has done a good job of making people miss, but I've been impressed with his decision making of, hey, if I've got three guys around me I'm going to try and put my pads down and get through a crease. I think those guys understand who they are what their talents are."

Ford, noted Adams, "has plenty of ability . . . he's one of those guys who is a jack-of-all-trades, pretty good at everything – good speed, quickness, good vision, catches the ball pretty well. He's a little bigger than Tony, not as big as Christian. He might be a little quicker than Christian, not as quick as Tony. But you have confidence when he's in there because he's going to do the right thing. He's going to play very hard, he knows the protections, he's usually very good with his footwork, his reads."

In pass protection, Adams called his backs "solid," but added, "None of them are running and breaking any helmets yet. They'll all get better."

In one of his first meetings with Adams, Ford said they talked about Ford's history at CU and his goal to finally

be a regular contributor. CU fans, said Ford, "have just come up to me and told me to keep my head up. I appreciate that; I didn't want fans or anybody else to think I don't work hard. I feel like I've done everything I could (to play regularly).

"I know that I'm a hard worker and that's what keeps me going," Ford continued. "I think everybody on this team knows that, too. (Adams) told me to keep fighting and that he would fight for me as well. I know I'm going to keep fighting. I'm here to play and lead these younger guys. I know adversity will pay off."

A 2009 Mullen High School graduate, Ford began an immediate battle simply to enroll at CU. He attended Barton Community College (Fort Riley, Kan.) for a semester to improve his grades then walked on with the Buffs in the fall of 2010. The Buffs are a big part of his past: an uncle (Howard Ballage) played at CU, as did his coach at Mullen (Dave Logan).

"I know about the tradition and the history here," Ford said. "And these last couple of years have not been CU football."

One of only six seniors on the offensive depth chart, Ford said he believes MacIntyre is counting on him for leadership - "And I embrace that. He gets on me, coach Adams gets on me, but it's out of love and it's a great feeling. You can tell by the way we practice and in meetings and the way they handle things in different situations. They coach us hard, but they give us reasons for what they do. You can see the results they had at San Jose State."

Ford's goals aren't so different from those of the seniors that preceded him. The Buffs haven't been postseason participants since 2007, and Ford wants to change that. He also wants to "leave something I can come back to and be proud of," he said. "This is it - last chance, last shot for me. Unfortunately, some things are what they are and can't be changed. But I'm glad I stuck it out."

**Practice Notes:** Tuesday's 12th practice "went well, we flew around and got some good things accomplished," MacIntyre said ... On the QB's in the scrimmage, "I thought they played well, Connor Wood was very accurate, made some good reads, Nick Hirschman had a couple very good throws. Shane Dillon is getting better, but isn't as comfortable in it as the other guys" ... Jordan Webb returned to practice Tuesday but quickly went down with a knee injury, the severity of which is not yet known ... The format of the spring game will be the picking of two teams with seniors serving as captains on both sides ... the teams will be picked by Thursday's practice so the teams can go through some substitutions and "look better when we hit the field on Saturday."

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SHOW MENU







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*D.D. Goodson is making the most of his position switch.*  
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



## Goodson's Move To WR Appears A Good Move For Buffs

Release: 04/09/2013 Courtesy: Josh Casey, CU Sports Information

BOULDER – In high school, it was a result of his superior talent. During his first two years in Colorado football, it became the consequence of team injuries and squandered opportunities. For whatever reason, D.D. Goodson has always been a player without a true home.

After spending the majority of his football playing career transitioning between various positions on an almost weekly basis, it seems the Buffaloes' junior wide receiver seems to have finally found a permanent place on the field in which to showcase his immense, yet untapped potential at the college level.

"I feel really comfortable (at wide receiver)," said Goodson. "I feel good and I'm just happy because I feel like I'm here to stay."

Goodson, a 5-7, 170-pound product Lamar Consolidated High School in Rosenberg, Texas, spent his prep career turning heads as an explosive multi-purpose weapon, starring on offense, defense and special teams. His play garnered a number of accolades and awards, and when he accepted a scholarship offer from CU he stood as the most versatile recruit of coach Jon Embree's first recruiting class.

### BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Goodson was expected to redshirt in 2011 but a litany of injuries in the secondary left the team thin on the depth chart and limited in its options. In a pinch Goodson was asked to burn his redshirt and fill a void. He played in four games, made two starts and logged eight tackles in an honorable display of dedication to the team's efforts to succeed.

In 2012, Goodson went into camp second on the depth chart at tailback. However, the whims of the coaching staff and constant reshuffling at the position left him with only five carries for 18 yards all season. This year, a new staff has devoted itself to stabilizing Goodson's role on the team and maximizing the abilities of a player whose speed and athleticism is expected add a new dimension to the offense that hasn't been evident in recent years.

"I think if I keep working hard and do the little things I can be a good receiver," said Goodson. "I think all of my assets will come in handy but I think my biggest asset is my hands and what I can do with the ball after the catch."

In position coach Troy Walters, a former record-setter at Stanford, Goodson cannot ask for a better teacher as he tries to learn the intricacies of his new role. Walters was an All-American receiver and the Pac-10 Conference's gold standard at his position.

"I love getting a chance to work with coach (Walters)," said Goodson. "He is hard on us but it's for the best because he knows his stuff. He even puts his cleats on and runs with us sometimes which is cool."

Although Goodson's role in the receiving corps will not be clearly defined until the fall, coach Walters believes that the most likely spot for a player of his skill set would be in the slot position as a weapon most effective in the open field. Lining up in the slot also brings the opportunity to take advantage of mismatches in coverage against bigger, slower linebackers.

"I think he'd be most dangerous (in the slot), but he's still finding his role," said Walters. "He is adjusting so well for someone who hasn't played receiver in college. He continues to work and does everything I ask. He's made a lot of plays so far in camp and he's been a very pleasant surprise."

After two years and little time on the field, some within the program believe that his talents have been wasted thus far, but Goodson himself doesn't regret a second of it.

"I don't feel like that at all," said Goodson. "I did a lot of learning and I got a good grasp on how to do things right. I knew when I first got here that it would be tough (to get on the field), and I never took anything for granted. I'm excited about the time I still have left."

Goodson has impressed throughout the spring and his nine catches for 128 yards and three touchdowns through three spring scrimmages are tops on the team. As a result, he has calmed the fears of some who felt that he would have to slowly overcome a substantial learning curve at his new position before making an impact.

"I think the fact that there are so many things I learned as a tailback and defensive back that I think will translate over and help me become a better receiver," said Goodson. "At tailback you have to be able to avoid tackles in small spaces and keep your balance and at defensive back you have to have great awareness and I think all of that can also help me at receiver."

After years without a true position Goodson seems to finally be home, just in time to help take a young and inexperienced offense to the next level.

SHOW MENU



## Football: CU Buffs' Jordan Webb injures knee in practice

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

Jordan Webb just can't catch a break.

Colorado's senior quarterback returned to the practice field briefly Tuesday and suffered another injury, the severity of which is unknown. Coach Mike MacIntyre said Webb was undergoing an MRI on his knee after leaving Tuesday's practice when he made a cut while running and fell to the ground.

"It was his first day back and he was pushing it," MacIntyre said. "He made a good run and made a cut and nobody touched him. Hopefully he'll be alright."

One year ago Tuesday, Colorado receiver Paul Richardson tore his ACL. The junior missed the entire 2012 season, but has since returned to spring drills.

Webb underwent two surgeries on his throwing hand during the winter and was able to practice several times early in spring drills last month before he re-injured the hand. He was the Buffs' primary starting quarterback for most of last season before suffering the initial hand injury that led to his offseason surgeries. He led CU to its only win at Washington State last fall during a 1-11 season.

If Webb's injury is serious, it could end his college career. He will be a fifth year senior in the fall and he used a redshirt year in 2009 when he was a true freshman at Kansas. He was allowed to transfer to Colorado last year without having to sit out because he earned his degree at Kansas in three years.

Webb is one of six quarterbacks MacIntyre and his assistants have been evaluating this spring. The coaches trimmed their list of quarterbacks in the mix for the starting job to four a week ago and Webb was one of the four. MacIntyre initially wanted to narrow the list to three but he didn't believe it would be fair to do so because Webb had participated in such a small segment of spring drills.

MacIntyre was asked for his impressions of the other three quarterbacks in the mix for the starting job after having time over the weekend to evaluate film of the third scrimmage of spring ball last Friday.

"I thought Connor Wood was very accurate and made a lot of good reads," MacIntyre said. "Nick Hirschman made a couple really good throws. Shane (Dillon) is getting better. He's still not as comfortable in it as the other guys cause he hasn't played as much, but everything is new to everybody. So hopefully we keep seeing him improving. He did some good things. He just wasn't quite as sharp as the other guys yet."

### Garage sale

The Colorado athletic department will hold a garage sale in Balch Fieldhouse on the west side of Folsom Field on Friday (noon-5 p.m.) and Saturday (9 a.m., until the end of the spring game). The game begins at 10:30 a.m. at Folsom Field.

Fans can purchase unused athletic equipment from CU's inventory from recent years at discounted prices.

Some of the equipment features the CU logo. There are no guarantees in regard to specific sizes being available.

There will be a limited number of game-worn jerseys available for the first time this year and on Saturday only, the department will sell a limited number of game-used gold helmets.

## Notable

MacIntyre said the defense improved on Tuesday with some things that were implemented in the scrimmage on Friday. ... Coaches have made some adjustments to their 'pencil' depth chart released last week and will continue to make changes to the depth chart through the remainder of spring. ... The Buffs will play the annual spring game on Saturday with seniors choosing teams Thursday. MacIntyre said part of Thursday's practice will be conducted with the teams pitted against each other as they will be Saturday.

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