



COLORADO BUFFALOES

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Corner Greg Henderson (20) remains confident despite CU's disappointing 2012 season.

Photo Courtesy: Joel Broida



Henderson Thinks CU Secondary Can Make Huge Strides

Release: 04/11/2013 Courtesy: Josh Casey, CU Sports Information

BOULDER – He has never experienced anything like it before. He had always been a part of a winner yet, after two years of frustrating losses and record-setting levels of futility he has never hung his head.

Even after a season in which the Colorado Buffaloes suffered the most losses in the team's 123-year history, cornerback Greg Henderson's confidence never wavered. It was a season in which his secondary allowed more touchdown passes than any team in the country, yet Henderson's poise remained the same.

"We're headed in the right direction," said Henderson. "The new coaching staff is teaching us well, they've done a good job. I think we can win seven or eight games and go to a bowl game this season because we have great players on both sides of the ball and great coaches."

In a sport that is sometimes overwhelmed by negativity and self-absorbed egotism, Henderson is a breath of fresh air. Although he carries himself with a great amount of confidence and conviction it never crosses the line into conceit or arrogance.

BUFFALO EXTRAS



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Spring Football 4/11
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"I have to stay confident," said Henderson. "You can't be successful if you're not confident."

Prior to his arrival at CU, success was something Henderson knew all too well. His teams at Norco High School in California won two championships in his three years at the varsity level, and a number of individual awards followed suit.

In 2011, Henderson's pedigree brought a number of scholarship offers from schools across the country, including CU. He eventually chose to come to Boulder to help then-first year coach Jon Embree usher in a new era for a once-proud football program that had fallen on hard times.

During his freshman season, as a rebuilding Buffaloes' team muddled thru a disappointing 3-10 season, Henderson was a rare bright spot on an otherwise unspectacular defense. The 5-11, 185-pound junior from Corona, Calif., set a school record for most plays by a freshman, had 58 tackles, six third-down stops and an interception in an impressive debut. As a result, he won the school's Lee Willard Award as the team's standout freshman and stood as a symbol of hope toward reviving the program.

"I got a lot of experience as a freshman and I think it helped me mature a little quicker," said Henderson. "I feel like I know the game so well now and it'll definitely help me as I go."

Last season began under rays of hope and optimism after two wins to end 2011, but a number of debilitating injuries crippled a young and inexperienced defense and the result was a 1-11 finish. The futility was highlighted by a secondary that gave up a school record 39 touchdown passes and forced just three interceptions. Henderson and the rest of the team's defensive backs know that in order to improve upon those numbers they must be willing to work hard and dedicate everything to the betterment of the team.

"We have to force a lot of turnovers and get off the field on third down," said Henderson. "We have to work in the weight room and just keep getting better every day."

With the arrival of a new coaching staff comes new cornerbacks coach Andy LaRussa, who followed head coach Mike MacIntyre from San Jose State. Despite the lack of success, LaRussa decided not to completely overhaul the philosophies of the previous position coach. Many of the players, including Henderson, believe that that consistency will benefit the group more than any amount of serious philosophical change might have.

"Coach (LaRussa) is a good coach," said Henderson. "He knows what he's talking about. He and (previous position coach) Greg Brown did a lot of things the same way and I think that's a good thing. They both emphasize getting to the ball and giving an all-out effort and just because it didn't work before doesn't mean it can't work."

Henderson is projected to start at cornerback next season opposite sophomore Kenneth Crawley, who, like Henderson, saw a significant amount of playing time as freshman. Henderson believes that will benefit both players in the long run.

"I think (he and Crawley) could be the best tandem in the Pac-12, maybe even the country," said Henderson. "He played really well last year and both of us got a lot of playing time right away (in our careers), so I think that will help us mature, learn the game quicker and succeed at a faster rate."

Henderson is coming off a season in which he suffered a knee sprain in the first week and missed two games as a result. When he did return in late September his effectiveness was severely limited and he honestly believes it took him a majority of the season to return to full strength. After the season, he worked even harder than he had before in an effort to make up for lost time and accelerate his own development as a top flight corner. He even worked diligently to improve his vertical jump in order to better match up with the much taller receivers he is asked to cover on a weekly basis.

"I've been working a lot," said Henderson. "I feel completely healthy now and I just been trying to get better by being more physical, and improving my hands and my feet. I've spent a lot of time in the weight room and my confidence is even higher."

If players like Henderson are any indication, the levels of confidence in the Colorado locker room may be higher

than anyone could imagine for a program that has lost 21 games in the last two seasons. Before the turnaround can begin the belief that it is indeed possible must exist, and Henderson brings that quality to the table in droves.

BUFF BITS: Given the Buffs' low number of healthy offensive linemen (10), coach Mike MacIntyre said the squad has been split as evenly as possible for Saturday's spring game (10:30 a.m., Folsom Field, Pac-12 Network). MacIntyre said having only 10 healthy O-linemen was a concern, but added, "Florida only had six." So the Gators just practiced instead of having a full-blown spring game. If one of CU's offensive linemen gets hurt Saturday, one player (sophomore Marc Mustoe) has been designated to switch jerseys on demand and play for both teams . . . MacIntyre called the game "really big" because of the live competition in most areas, especially on special teams . . . A final spring depth chart likely won't be completed until the end of next week . . . Captains for the 2013 season are expected to be named before the Buffs break for the summer. MacIntyre wants that leadership in place before summer conditioning work begins in June . . . MacIntyre is looking forward to running behind Ralphie for the first time on Saturday. He said he has been told "don't try and keep up . . . you'll pull a hamstring."

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Football: MacIntyre not worried about Pac-12 televising CU Buffs' spring game

By Kyle Ringo Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

The 2013 Colorado spring game at Folsom Field on Saturday will be a history-making event in a lot of ways for the program.

We're not talking moon-landing significance here, but it will be a day of firsts for sure.

Coach Mike MacIntyre and all nine of his full-time assistants will get their first taste of what it will be like on future autumn Saturdays to run behind Ralphie on to the field. The Buffs have certainly had their struggles of late, but there is no denying they continue to have one of the coolest mascots and traditions in the college game.

"I'm excited about running out behind Ralphie," MacIntyre said. "I was told don't try to keep up with Ralphie or I'll pull a hamstring. ... I hope I get to run out behind Ralphie a lot of times is what I hope. That will be fun."

This year's game will also be the first in the history of CU football to be televised, and it's not just a mom-and-pop local broadcast. The hard work the Buffs have put in through the first 13 practices of spring will be on display for a national audience across the Pac-12 platform with the game being the first of five in the conference to be televised on the network Saturday.

The Pac-12 is the only conference in the nation to have each of its spring games televised.

Instead of sending the regular crews to do each game from the booth at the stadium as they do in the fall, the Pac-12 Network plans to have Mike Yam, former CU coach Rick Neuheisel and Curtis Conway offer commentary on the game and each program from the studio in San Francisco. In addition, the network will have sideline reporters at each game doing in-game interviews with coaches, players, notable alumni in attendance and others.

"Our goal is to showcase all the teams and provide as much as access as possible with a roving reporter who will be down on the sideline interviewing anyone and everyone that will talk to us," Pac-12 Network coordinator producer Kyle Reischling said.

MacIntyre said he is not concerned that having the spring game televised gives the first three opponents of the season -- CSU, Central Arkansas and Fresno State -- and opportunity to scout the Buffs. He said those opponents already have all the film they need to handle that job from his past three seasons at San Jose State. However, MacIntyre did say the Buffs will hold quite a bit back Saturday.

Neuheisel said if he was still coaching in the conference, he wouldn't be concerned with having the spring game televised.

"I think what (MacIntyre) is going to want to do is entertain the people who come out to the spring game," Neuheisel said. "He's going to let his playmakers hopefully show that there is reason for optimism for Colorado football. I think that will be his No. 1 goal on Saturday."

CU plans to have a standard game, including live special teams plays. Players and coaches chose sides Thursday with one team being led by junior quarterback Nick Hirschman and the other side led by fellow junior quarterback Connor Wood.

It seems clear based on reviews offered by MacIntyre and offensive coordinator Brian Lindgren that those two players will conclude spring ball as the frontrunners to earn the starting job against Colorado State in the season opener. In case you missed it, the Mountain West Conference announced Thursday that the CU-CSU game has been moved to Sunday, Sept. 1.

"I love spring games, being on Folsom and finally putting the uniform back on after so long," Hirschman said. "So the spring game is an incredibly big deal to me and it's really important to me."

Wood also is excited for the opportunity to show how he has improved since last season. The fact that his friends and family members back home in Texas don't have to fly in to watch only adds to that feeling.

MacIntyre said following Thursday's practice that the spring game will play a big role in how coaches evaluate the team's progress this spring and establish a depth chart going into fall camp in August.

"Coach MacIntyre said it's going to be a pretty important evaluation event," Wood said.

The fact that CU is playing it straight makes it easy on the Pac-12 Network. Some programs use unusual scoring systems that can be difficult to follow for a television audience.

"What's happening on the field for each school, determining that and getting clarity is something that we've needed to talk to the schools about to get a handle on what we can be expecting to see," Reischling said.

Brenna Webb communications manager at Pac-12 Enterprises said the conference is committed to televising spring games in the future and the network expects to learn a lot this spring that should make future spring game broadcasts better.

"We really don't know what to expect because we don't have anything to compare it to," Webb said. "It's an interesting question and I think this will be a jumping off point for us to see where we can improve and ways we can work with the schools in terms of the promotion of the games as we move forward."

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @KyleRingo

Football: CU Buffs showdown with CSU Rams moved to Sunday, Sept. 1

Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

The season opener for the Colorado football team seems a million miles away at this point for first year coach Mike MacIntyre.

With his first spring game looming Saturday, one final spring practice to follow Tuesday, the entire spring recruiting evaluation period running through the end of May and summer camps after that, facing Colorado State is somewhere way out there on the horizon right now. But MacIntyre is also experienced enough to know the 4½ months between now and game day will pass quickly.

Now he has one extra day to prepare.

The Mountain West Conference announced Thursday the Buffs' and Rams' annual grudge match has been moved to Sunday, Sept. 1. It was originally scheduled for Aug. 31. The game will once again be played at Sports Authority Field in Denver, where crowd sizes have been dwindling in recent years mostly due to lackluster ticket sales on the CSU side.

A game time and television rights are still being negotiated but there is some hope that the game could be picked up by ESPN for a national audience and played in the middle of the afternoon.

"That will be great," MacIntyre said of playing on Sunday. "I think any time we can get more exposure it's awesome. So that will be a lot of fun."

Special teams emphasis

MacIntyre said one of the biggest parts of the spring game will be having live special teams plays. He said the entire game will play a big part in establishing a depth chart for the start of fall camp, nowhere more so than the special teams units because they aren't generally live in practices.

MacIntyre said he is hoping to see a few more stops from the defense in the spring game. The defense was chewed up by the offense in the most recent scrimmage last week. He said he is hoping for a smooth scrimmage without many penalties or injuries.

Captains coming

MacIntyre was asked when he will choose team captains for the 2013 season.

"I hope to announce captains before summer starts in June so they can help lead them in the summer and really dive into it," he said.

Notable

Defensive back Parker Orms has missed most of the second half of spring drills with swelling in his knee. MacIntyre said Orms will try to play Saturday. ... MacIntyre said with only 10 offensive linemen available for the spring game, five on each team, there is a contingency plan for an in-game injury among the group. He said one of the remaining linemen will change between black and white jersey and play for both teams. ...

MacIntyre said he expects to have a final depth chart from spring available by the end of next week. ... The spring game will feature four 12-minute quarters with a running clock, except for the final 2 minutes of each half. When asked what the winners will get, MacIntyre offered this: "They'll get to eat."

Follow Kyle on Twitter: [@KyleRingo](#)

Buffaloes vs. Rams Rocky Mountain Showdown moves to Sunday at Mile High

By David Krause *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

DenverPost.com

The Colorado vs. Colorado State football game at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in 2013 has moved to Sunday, Sept. 1, it was announced Thursday.

The Mountain West Conference released its 12-team football schedule for the fall, and the Rocky Mountain Showdown has moved a day. It was scheduled for Aug. 31.

CSU athletic director Jack Graham said Thursday he started talking to Colorado AD Mike Bohn in January about moving the game. Graham said the hope is that by moving to Sunday, "one of the national broadcasts would want to pick it up."

The kickoff hasn't been set, but Graham said:

"We don't want to kick off too early in the day and lessen the experience down there, but at the same time we're not doing an evening game. I'd say 3 to 4 o'clock is the optimum time to kick off, and there's a good chance we get that."

The Buffaloes and Rams have played on a Sunday twice — Aug. 31, 2008, in Denver (CU won 38-17) and Sept. 6, 2009, in Boulder (a 23-17 CSU win).

This year's matchup is considered a home game for CSU, which won last year 22-17 at Mile High. The 2014 game is also the season opener (scheduled for Aug. 30), and the rivalry moves to a Week 3 game in 2015.

CU leads the overall series 61-21-2, including 7-5 in Denver.

Other CSU schedule updates released by the Mountain West include the Rams' game at Wyoming on Oct. 19 and the game vs. Air Force as the season finale on Nov. 30 at Hughes Stadium.

Air Force's conference schedule includes two Friday games (Sept. 13 at Boise State and Nov. 8 at New Mexico) and two home Thursday games (Oct. 10 vs. San Diego State and Nov. 21 vs. UNLV).

Times for all the games will be released at a later date.

The inaugural Mountain West title game is Dec. 7 and will be played at the home stadium of the divisional champion with the higher BCS ranking.

The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

APRIL 11, 2013, 7:18 PM

Colorado QB Jordan Webb optimistic about getting sixth year

By **JOHN HENDERSON** |  No Comments

BOULDER — Senior quarterback Jordan Webb came to Colorado's practice Thursday, throwing the football with his one good leg and watching Nick Hirschman and Connor Wood battle it out for the starting job next fall.

Webb tore his ACL Tuesday when his cleat caught in the turf in a freak non-contact drill and is out for the season. He will apply for a sixth-year medical hardship and much of it depends on 2009. That was his freshman year at Kansas where he tore his abdominal muscle in fall camp and had to red-shirt.

For the NCAA to grant him a sixth year, he must prove that he was never healthy enough to play until at least late that season. The exact cutoff date is not clear. But he was in competition for the backup quarterback job and said the injury forced him to red-shirt.

"I feel like I should (get the extra year)," Webb said. "I feel if I don't get another year then there's a problem with how the rules work."

Webb said he can't remember the exact date he was declared healthy enough to play but he missed the redshirts' developmental program the entire month of September.

Webb, who led the 1-11 Buffaloes with 1,434 yards and eight touchdowns last year, seemed in good spirits. That's remarkable since Tuesday was his first practice back after reinjuring the thumb he broke late last season.

I asked him if he felt cursed.

"Sometimes," he said. "You can't think that way. It just wears on you. I always look at the bright side. I'm lucky to live in Boulder, Colo., get my education paid for and be around a great group of guys."

If Webb does get his sixth year, he could leave Colorado with quite a resume — academically. He graduated early from Kansas which allowed him to take advantage of an NCAA rule allowing graduates to transfer and play immediately if they have a year eligibility left.

He said he'll receive his master's at Colorado next school year. If he gets a sixth year, he could work on another master's in 2014-15.

I asked him how much tearing an ACL hurts.

"It was pretty excruciating the first couple of minutes," he said. "Then it kind of went down. It wasn't a fun couple of minutes."

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/colleges/2013/04/11/colorado-qb-jordan-webb-optimistic-about-getting-sixth-year/27065/>

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